New York

City Is Seeking Foster Homes For 100 Babies

New York Herald Tribune
New York Mirror
Wed. 7-2-49

Although Not Ill, They Are in Hospitals Because of Lack of Other Facilities

The New York City Department of Welfare launched a campaign yesterday to find foster homes for 100 children under three years old who are now being cared for in hospitals and other temporary shelters, although they are not sick, because sufficient facilities are not available.

Raymond M. Hilliard, Welfare Commissioner, in a press conference at his office, 902 Broadway, expained the program and emphasized that the children are not for adoption. They are to be placed in foster homes only until their families are once again in a position to support the babies properly.

The city program is designed to supplement the work of private agencies which provide for the vast majority of the 3,200 children under sixteen who annually must be taken care of.

Families Will Be Paid

Qualified families, of the same religions as the children, will receive $50 or $55 a month from the city for each child they take in. From the city's point of view this is less expensive than keeping the youngsters in institutions.

Commissioner Hilliard and two associates, Mrs. Crystal Potter, Deputy Commissioner, and Miss Amelia Igel, director of the division of child care, explained that in addition to making space available in hospitals for sick youngsters, the foster-homes program would be of great benefit to the children taken.

Children need the individual care and affection which cannot be obtained in hospital wards, it was said. Whereas the first words spoken by a child in a home usually are "mama" or "daddy," babies in hospitals say "nurse" or "doctor" or words even more impersonal.

Newspaper men had an opportunity to see the effect of hospital upbringing on children. Anne, eighteen months, and Howard, two years, freshly scrubbed and neatly clothed, were brought into the press conference by nurses. Both were healthy and chubby and clutched fistfulls of lollypops.

Do Not Utter a Sound

When they were placed on Commissioner Hilliard's lap they sat without uttering a sound. The flash of newspaper photographers' bulbs failed to disconcert them. They did not talk, laugh or cry.

Mrs. Potter and Miss Igel explained that a child used to the attention of his own home would have displayed considerably more emotion than the two youngsters present. Institutions, even the best of them, are not as good as private homes for raising children, they said.

Wed. 7-2-49

The city gets the children voluntarily, and the youngsters for whom foster homes are being sought were not committed by courts. A typical case involves a soldier-father, with the mother taken ill and requiring long hospitalization. When the father is discharged from the Army or when the mother recovers sufficiently to care for the child the child will be returned to her. Other cases involve desertion of the family by the father. The mother gives the child away temporarily, and when she is on her feet financially she can get the baby back.

The city has 800 such youngsters, up to the age of sixteen who are awaiting homes, but is concentrating first on finding homes for those under three years.

Commissioner Hilliard urged families where the adults are under sixty years, who live in New York State within fifty miles of New York City and who love children and would like to care for one of the youngsters, to communicate immediately with the Foster Home Program at the City Welfare Department.

Illegitimacy On Upgrade In Ala.

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -(ANP)- The rate of illegitimate births in Alabama is climbing rapidly, according to the state department of vital statistics. There are 50,000 more illegitimate children in the state today than there were 10 years ago.

According to the report, Negroes far outrank whites in the number of illegitimate births. Only one out of every 100 white births in 1947 were illegitimate against one out of every five Negro births.

A few statistics are: Illegitmacy has shown a one-third numerical increase in the last 20 years In 1930, about 4,703 illegitimate babies were born in the state. In 1947, there were 6,646

The largest number of women becoming unmarried mothers are in the age bracket 17-19 years. However, more than 100 girls of 14 years became unmarried mothers in 1947, and 20 women past 40 gave birth to illigimate children that year.

Harris & Ewing

SENATORS IN WASHINGTON SLUMS
"Surely, we don't permit that kind of thing?"

Behind The Headlines

Slums Of The Nation's Capital Come Under Senatorial Scrutiny

By ALBERT J. HINTON

IT MUST have been embarrassing, to say the least, for that group of Senators who made a tour of slums in the Nation's Capital last week ostensibly as one means of pointing up the desperate need for a long-range housing bill with adequate provisions for slum clearance on the national level.

MR. HINTON

Source of their discomfiture was not the fact that they made the tour in the midst of Senate debate on the public housing bill—that was excellent timing indeed—but rather it must have stemmed from the knowledge that these slum areas exist within a half mile of the capital building itself where only a comparatively short while before, the members of that august body had voted a cool five-and-a-half billion dollars of the taxpayers' money for the European recovery program.

The news stories reveal that the delegation was headed by Senator Paul H. Douglas, Democrat, of Illinois, who personally conducted the tour. Other members of the group included: Senators Theodore F. Green, of Rhode Island, also a Democrat, and these Republicans: Wayne Morse, of Oregon, Raymond E. Baldwin, of Connecticut, and Homer Ferguson, of Michigan.

* * * *

THOSE WERE NOT PRETTY sights by any means which met the eyes of these gentlemen who wear the Senatorial toga. And it is just as well for them to be apprised of the fact that what they saw can be easily duplicated hundreds of times in as many American cities. And the fact that the slum areas they inspected begin within a hundred feet of the Senate office building itself cannot be considered an extenuating circumstance.

They saw, among other things, a house where no less than thirteen persons sleep in three beds in two rooms. . . a man, his wife, nine children, one grandchild, and the man's grandfather. In this hovel called a home, there are no lights except an oil lamp, no heat except a coal stove in the kitchen, no running water except a lone spigot in the back-yard—and no inside toilet facilities.

Standard equipment for slum dwellings in the Capital city of the world's greatest democracy: broken windows, plaster off the walls, little or no furniture, bare floors, yards heaped with rubbish, and what have you.

One of the reporters accompanying the crusading Senate delegation became curious as to the average pay for dwellers in these slum areas. The top wage, he found, was $35 a week—that is when a man has a regular job. The rent for these hovels runs from $12 to $30 a month, and the enforced demand for them is at an all-time high.

* * * *

AN EXPLANATION FOR the peculiarly American phenomenon of slums has been advanced by Senator Taft, Republican, of Ohio, a strong supporter of the public housing bill. He expressed his views during Senate debate on the measure last week. In this country, he says, between five and six million of the nation's housing units are sub-standard, and over half of them—possibly as many as 4,000,000—are in slums.

Declaring that we haven't provided enough decent homes for our people for the very simple reason that the cost of housing is too high, Senator Taft explained that "if homes could be purchased for half of what they are now being purchased for, I do not believe we would have any slum problem. Today it is very difficult to build a four-room house for less than $7,000. A family would have to have an income of approximately $3,000 a year in order to live in a $7,000 house."

When you take into consideration the fact that forty-five per cent of all the families in the United States—or 15 million families—have an income of less than $3,000, it becomes glaringly apparent why they are unable to buy homes at today's inflated prices. Moreover, the amount of rent they can afford to pay is so low that by the time they are able to secure living quarters of any kind their rent is hardly sufficient to keep up the homes, thus they tend to deteriorate.

It follows then, that the low income families live in houses that tend to deteriorate, and the lowest income families live in houses that have deteriorated most. The slum pattern is thus perpetuated to the everlasting shame of this nation.

Divorce? Gee What's The Answer?

Dell auth Boundary Wrote.

Every time someone sets out to tell the world what's wrong with marriage and what can be done to stem the swelling divorce tide, he usually leaves the question worst off than he finds it. But this time, Judge Hubert T. Delany of the N. Y. Domestic Relations Court, has carefully avoided the mistake most writers and speakers make in trying to conjure up and answer for a most difficult human problem. Times. 7-28-49

Judge Delany, writing in the forthcoming September number of "Our World," finds that more than a third of all of the million marriages undertaken in the last 10 years are in trouble; that last year 39,800 divorces were reported among Negro marriages alone; that divorce is one of the bad plagues of present day society which rends hearts, destroys careers and stymies our lives.

"The people who suffer most by divorces," writes Judge Delany, "are not the adults involved, but their children. The world is full of youngsters whose parents are divorced. They are unhappy, bewildered little people who find their loyalty torn in two — spending part of the time with one parent-part of the time with the other; not knowing why this thing has happened, and as a result growing up into insecure, neurotic people." Atlanta Ga.

Therein lies the tragedy of divorce — little children, who love both parent, but who must suffer the torture, the inconvenience and all the other evils which rob marriage of its spiritual essence and significance. But we repeat, Judge Delany discussed the grounds in which most divorces grow, which he lists as poverty, social climbing, incompatibility, male superiority and physical mismating.

It is old-fashioned nowadays to talk about spiritual union between married couples. People today have moved away from the doctrine of religion in the home. Ministers are becoming apologetic in their sermons, lest they offend the senses of their members. But we have no apology to make when we say frankly that the high rate of divorce and dissertion can be avoided and reduced if people decided to sanctify their marriage with a Christian, spiritual devotion. And by that we don't mean that they must profess a flippant, theoretical knowledge of religion and life. To the contrary, we mean that young people preparing for a life of happiness in marriage must exercise the same utter sincerity and seriousness as they use in securing an education to serve useful careers after graduation.

America and the church included, has too long left the great institution of marriage to chance. Two young people come to make a decision of life companies without the slightest previous training; without any sort of parental or institutional guidance. They just decide to get married and they go ahead, sometimes without so much as a blood test. And the result is, the rocks.

Marriage will always be a hazardous affair until somehow the churches and the schools can join hands in seeing to it that young people shall be indoctrinated with the spirit of the Christian religion and moral sensitiveness. That and that alone will change the divorce rate.

TRUMAN PUTS BAN ON ALL HOUSING AID WHERE BIAS EXISTS

F. H. A. Will Refuse Financing if Occupancy Is Restricted Over Race, Color, Creed

PERLMAN REVEALS POLICY

Address by Solicitor General, Made Here, Opens New Fight for Civil-Rights Program

By LEWIS WOOD

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2—As part of its drive to enforce civil rights, the Truman Administration suddenly announced today that financing by the Federal Housing Administration would be refused for any new houses or apartments where occupancy or use was restricted on the basis of race, creed or color.

Making this revelation in behalf of the administration, Solicitor General Philip B. Perlman told a New York City meeting of the State Committee on Discrimination in Housing:

"President Truman has been working on this matter for some time, and is most happy over the result of his efforts."

Almost immediately, it was repeated from Key West that President Truman had given personal consent for the announcement. William D. Hassett, one of the White House secretaries, said at the Presidential vacation spot:

"That is the Administration policy. That speech was delivered with the knowledge of the President, and he approved the line laid down by Mr. Perlman."

The unexpected move was taken to mean that the administration would press hard for other features of its civil-rights program almost immediately upon the reconvening of Congress, a month hence.

High Officials Named in Move

In his disclosure, Solicitor General Perlman said he spoke not only for the President but for Attorney General J. Howard McGrath, Home Finance Administrator Raymond M. Foley, and Commissioner Franklin D. Richards of the Federal Housing Administration. Moreover, Mr. Perlman announced that Veterans Administrator Carl R. Gray Jr. would soon issue similar amendments to regulations concerning GI assistance in home building.

It was obvious that the Administration believed itself legally fortified in its new plan. The rules, it explained, had been devised to bring FHA mortgage operations entirely into line with Supreme Court rulings in racial covenant cases.

This was a reference to the celebrated 6 to 0 decision of May, 1949, wherein the highest court held legally unenforceable any agreements to bar Negroes or other racial groups from owning real estate. Through Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson, the tribunal said teh covenants could still exist but that they could not be supported in either State or Federal courts.

Observers here learned with interest that consultations on the matter had been proceeding at the White House and the Justice Department with representatives of the home-financing agencies.

FHA Said to Have Power

Such meetings, it was ascertained, had been going on for some time, while government experts strove to work out a solution. It was stated that the one evolved would not necessitate Congressional approval, because the FHA was empowered to lay down its own rules.

Almost every one here believes that the President, although holidaying at Key West, is using part of his time, at least, in preparation of a message to Congress, which will reiterate his insistence on a civil-rights platform. Necessarily this would be but a part of a "State of the Union" communication to Congress; but the President was angered when his plan was smothered by a filibuster early this year, and he is expected to make his demands no less strongly than he did before.

The timing of today's announcement of the new rules attracted attention, coming so soon as it did after the Southern Governors' Conference at Biloxi, where dissident forces of the Democratic party made themselves heard. Some of the observers here thought the Truman Administration wanted to make it plain that it did not fear the frequent criticisms made against it.

FHA officers here said the new regulations would not affect any present FHA financing, but would, however, concern any to be used after a date yet to be specified. Officials said tonight that they thought the new rules would go into use in about thirty to sixty days. Meanwhile suitable blanks and forms are being prepared.

Under the new policy, no property will be eligible for FHA mortgage insurance if, after the date to be specified and before the mortgage is recorded, there has been put into effect a "covenant racially restricting the use or occupancy of the property."

FHA officers said the change would affect individual financing of a single unit home if covered by a racial covenant; and, also, a builder erecting houses outside of covenanted territory, if it were known that he proposed to sell or rent on a restricted, racial basis.

SOUTHERNERS FIGHT ORDER

Builders Say Segregation Ban Will Not Work in Their Area

ATLANTA, Dec. 2 (UP)—Southern building leaders today denounced the government decision to bar FHA insurance for segregated housing as a measure that would not possibly work in this section.

They said that if it were enforced it would mean the end of Federally-insured private dwelling projects in many Southern cities where separate housing developments for whites and Negroes were traditional.

"That's what I'd expect from Washington," said Jack Helm, executive vice president of the Home Builders Association of New Orleans.

"I don't know how it's going to apply down here. We're building homes for white people. Do they expect us to sell them to Negroes, too?"

Ed Hiles, executive vice president of the Georgia Savings andd Loan League, said his organization always had been opposed to the Government's entrance into the housing field and had warned "just such as this would happen."

"Once you ask Uncle Sam to subsidize you, you've got to also be prepared to accept and carry out what he tells you to do," Mr. Hiles said.

James E. Robinson, chairman of the Atlanta Housing Authority, added: "I don't think anyone would insist on enforcing such a thing in this section."

"If an apartment were built on Peachtree Street in Atlanta, I don't think they would force us to admit Negro tenants," Mr. Robinson said.

Enforcement of the clause would mean "the end of home construction" in Montgomery, Ala., said a statement from the office of Folmar and Flynn, contractors in that city.

Philip B. Perlman

The New York Times (Dept. of Justice)

Dr. H. E. Christenberry, director of the Knoxville (Tenn.) Housing Authority, said that he did not see how the rule would work there.

Contractors Here Surprised

Builders here were greatly surprised at the announcement that Federal Housing Administration insurance is to be refused to any new homes or apartments where occupancy is restricted on grounds of race or religion. They pointed out that restrictions are being made in most of the apartments built under Section 608 of the Federal Housing Act.

Clarence R. Knickman, Long Island builder, said such a move would kill the FHA. While it will not affect work on which commitments have been received, he declared it will restrict future work.

Mr. Knickman expressed the belief that there would be a change in the new regulation. He said builders would hesitate to take a chance on putting up houses or apartments that they could not sell or rent. Builders who have Federal housing commitments pending refused to discuss the new ruling and others said they would have to study the official order before making any comment.

Race Housing Order Held Up For 60 Days

Only Few Dwellings Affected By Regulation; Rule Not Retroactive

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—(AP)—Government housing officials indicated today it will be 60 days or more before the government invokes its new rule against writing race and religious barriers into federal-aided housing in the future.

They said it will take that long to print and distribute the necessary documents providing for the changes in regulations announced yesterday by Solicitor General Phillip B. Perlman with President Truman's full backing.

The new rule will bar federal home mortgage guarantees where written restrictive covenants are placed on record after the effective date.

When the new anti-discrimination policy goes into effect, Perlman said, it will cover (1) FHA financing guarantees for single homes and housing projects, (2) GI loans for veterans housing, and (3) slum clearance and redevelopment projects authorized in the multi-billion dollar housing bill which Congress approved last summer.

Federal housing officials pointed out, however, that the new regulations are not retroactive and will apply only in those cases where there actually is recorded a covenant after the key date against sale or rent of the property to persons on the basis of race or religion.

Number Unknown

Franklin D. Richards, commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration, said that very few of the nation's dwellings will be affected, but just how many he did not say.

"It will be an exceptional case," he said, "where property cannot receive federal mortgage aid."

The FHA does not make loans for purchase or construction purposes, but does insure the mortgages issued by other government agencies or private concerns.

In an explanatory statement sent out to all FHA field offices, Richards said:

"These amendments do not attempt to control any owner in determining what tenants he shall sell his property."

He said the changes were being made to bring the FHA regulations "fully in line with the policy underlying the recent Supreme Court decisions to the effect that, although individuals may be free to impose or comply with restrictive racial covenants, governmental support of such covenants is contrary to the public policy of the United States and cannot be enforced by state or federal courts."

Southern Congress members posed sharp attacks on the administration action.

'Punitive Action'

In Montgomery W. Ervin James, chairman of the Young Democrats of Montgomery County, said the administration's action "smacks of punitive action against the South."

"Such a policy denying further FHA financial assistance to any [illegible] properties" he said, "is unwise. It will only jeapordize harmonious relations between the races.

"The great majority of the people of Alabama believe in giving the Negro better economic opportunities but the principle of equal justice under law is not served by such unfortunate decrees from Washington.

"As Southerners who believe that such proposals can be most effectively opposed within the Democratic Party, we shall continue to use our energies and resources to block such attempts to overturn customs and practices in the South which could only result in ill-will and misunderstanding."

Discrimination in Housing

Possible Effects Discussed of New F.H.A. Ruling on Financial Aid

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Solicitor General Perlman, in a speech Dec. 2, announced that the Federal Housing Administration would shortly adopt rules under which it would "refuse to aid the financing of any properties the occupancy or use of which is restricted on the basis of race or creed or color." It is necessary to review certain developments in recent years in order to understand just what will and what will not be accomplished by the regulations Mr. Perlman described.

Prior to last year the most effective method of using the powers of government to maintain racial and religious discrimination in housing was the restrictive covenant. It was a device whereby the owners of real estate could place a restriction for an indefinite period on the occupancy of a tract of land by members of minority groups. The restriction was enforceable in court by any owner of a single parcel in the tract and hence was difficult to avoid.

In May, 1948, the United States Supreme Court held that enforcement of these covenants by any court violated the Constitution. This decision was properly hailed as a death blow to this effective means of perpetuating discrimination. While the decision did not solve the entire problem of discrimination in housing, it did eliminate one technique.

Essential Financing

Most of those who engage in this form of discrimination receive substantial aid from the Federal Government; they are assisted by the FHA in getting the financing which is essential to the construction of new housing.

For some time FHA has been criticized for its unquestioning acceptance of the ethics of the private real estate business, which takes racial and religious discrimination as a matter of course. Indeed, until last year, the FHA itself expressly suggested the writing of racial restrictive covenants in new housing developments. It continues today to grant mortgage insurance even where the builder has engaged and is engaging in open and notorious racial discrimination. It continues to withhold insurance where a builder's plan to admit racially mixed groups to his apartment development will, in the opinion of FHA, impair real estate values. In other words, FHA will impose a policy of discrimination which the builder opposes.

How does Mr. Perlman's statement affect these FHA practices? Despite the broad language so widely quoted in the press, it appears that little change is contemplated. Other parts of his statement speak solely in terms of "restrictive covenants." Mr. Perlman declares that mortgage insurance will be withheld where restrictive covenants are put in effect after a certain date (probably March 1) and that applicants for mortgage insurance will have to agree not to impose written restrictive covenants as long as the mortgage insurance lasts.

The new rules will not affect existing restrictive covenants. They will not reduce FHA hostility to mixed housing developments. In fact, FHA Commissioner Richards has said as much. Most important, the new restrictions will not prevent FHA from insuring mortgages for builders who openly announce their intention to exclude minority groups, so long as their intention is not written into a recorded restrictive covenant.

Belated Action

Thus we find that the proposed regulations merely bring FHA in line with a Supreme Court decision which is more than eighteen months old. Such belated action cannot be viewed as a great victory, particularly when persons charged with carrying out the new policy are busily engaged in assuring realtors that the new policy means nothing.

Of course, the text of the regulations has not yet been announced. It is entirely possible that the Federal Housing Administrator will still give substance to that portion of the Solicitor General's speech which I quoted. That could be done; the FHA could provide expressly that all applicants for mortgage insurance must agree that they will not engage in racial or religious discrimination as long as the FHA guarantee remains in effect. They could further announce that the racial composition of a neighborhood is not to be given any weight in determining whether to grant FHA insurance.

If this course is followed, this widely heralded change in policy will yet be a substantial victory in one of the most distressing areas of economic inequality. If it is not, the change will be illusory.

SHAD POLIER,
Vice President, American Jewish Congress.

New York, Dec. 7, 1949.

Sparkman Fight Plan On Civil Rights Housing

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—(AP)—Two Dixie lawmakers said today the Truman administration had better refrain from broadening new civil rights housing regulations if it wants Congress to approve more home-building legislation.

At the same time, an oficial said the administration "will take full advantage of its executive powers" to achieve the objectives of President Truman's hotly disputed civil rights program.

"But," this official added, "we are going to be very careful not to take any steps on our own which require prior authorization by Congress." He asked not to be identified by name.

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THE GO-SLOW advice came from Sens. Sparkman (D., Ala.) and Johnston (D., S. C.). They spoke out after two government agencies announced that new rules, curbing [illegible] of agreements which restrict selection of tenants, will go into effect Feb. 15.

The agreements or covenants are those which bar sale or rent of dwellings to persons of certain races or creeds.

The Federal Housing Administration said last night it will deny home loan insurance, or mortgage financing, in any case where a covenant is filed in the public records after Feb. 15.

And the Veterans Administration announced that after that time it won't back up new mortgage guarantees in cases where a public covenant is discovered.

Unwritten covenants are not affected. Nor are agreements and loans prior to Feb. 15.

The board outline of the new policy was announced early this month by Solicitor General Philip B. Perlman. He said the Truman administration would cut off federal financing for any new dwellings where occupancy is restricted on the grounds of race or religion.

* * *

BUT THE NEXT DAY FHA Chief Franklin D. Richards issued a "clarifying statement" which said the new rules would not attempt to control "any owner in determining what tenants he shall have or to whom he shall sell his property."

Last night's announcements by the FHA and the veterans agency disclosed a program which appeared to be much narrower in scope than that indicated by Perlman. Instead, they seemed to bear out Richards' forecast.

The FHA administrator has said: "It will be an exceptional case where a property cannot receive federal mortgage help," that statement "still holds true," an FHA spokesman said last night.

On the other hand, an indication the new regulations might be broadened later came from the high government official who said the administration plans to use executive powers to the full extent in the civil rights program.

"I don't know," he said, "whether there was a decision to limit the scope of the regulations going into effect Feb. 15. But I do know you can't move too fast in this sort of thing."

Sens. Sparkman and Johnston both expressed satisfaction that the new rules go no further than they do. But they both called the regulations unwise and unnecessary.

* * *

SPARKMAN IS THE chief sponsor of a pending bill which is aimed at spurring the construction of homes for middle-income families. Mr. Truman reportedly is planning to urge enactment of such a program at the next session of Congress. It would supplement the public housing program approved at the last session.

Sparkman said the new regulations "are bound to be harmful to the administration if it expects to get new housing legislation." He and Johnston, along with most other Congress members from the South are opposed to Mr. Truman's civil rights program.

"The administration," said Johnston, "Is just stirring up trouble with this sort of tactics. It won't take much more of it, so far as housing legislation is concerned, to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. I certainly am not going to vote for any more housing if this business continues, and I believe there are plenty of others who feel the same way about it."

Segregation Dealt Stiff Blow, Though Not Altogether Out

Courier Sat. 12-17-49

Pittsburgh, Pa.

WASHINGTON—While a beclouded and partially befuddled nation stumbled around in confusion over recent Federal announcements on the new U. S. policy on FHA mortgage loans, a new light was shed on the housing picture, which, in the words of Thurgood S. Marshall, NAACP legal chief, "opens the way to the final disintegration of the ghetto."

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Growing out of an announcement by Franklin D. Richards, Federal Housing Administration Commissioner, which declared that the new policy would ban future Federal loan insurance for housing in which racial segregation patterns were followed, a terrific clamor arose in the South and Dixie realtors swamped Washington underneath a pressure barrage.

* * *

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, a spokesman for the Public Housing Administration said that racial segregation in public housing projects would be left to the decision of local authorities as long as an equitable apportionment of housing units between the races was maintained.

Basically, this PHA spokesman said, there would be no change in the present practice of permitting each community to decide whether to have separate projects for racial groups under the new public housing law. This created the to-be-expected reaction among Negroes that the Federal policy statement was a masterpiece of double-talk, and that again the Government had yielded to Dixie.

The new light on the picture, however, comes from phases of the program which are related directly to the Slum Clearance and Urban Redevelopment program, which itself is of a more direct importance to the nation's fifteen million Negroes, victims of slums and ghetto living conditions.

* * *

WITH A MULTI-MILLION dollar Federal housing program about to be put into action, a statement was made in New York City by Nathaniel S. Keith, director of Slum Clearance and Urban Redevelopment, Housing and Home Finance Agency, in which the implications of the Federal policy on housing will free developments under that agency from racial restrictions.

Mr. Keith, explaining the new Federal program of slum clearance and urban redevelopment, pointed out that projects in many of the nation's larger cities were being approved which call for the elimination of slums and redevelopment of properties to "restore economic values to the area."

RESTRICTIONS

Racially prejudiced whites have in the past frequently charged that property value decreased whenever Negroes moved into "white" areas. To sustain themselves in legally keeping Negroes out of such areas, they resorted to "restrictive covenants," which barred sale of property to certain racial or religious groups. Recent decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court have, however, outlawed restrictive covenants.

* * *

MR. KEITH EXPLAINED that in the future housing program, the Urban Redevelopment Authority of a city is empowered through the use of city and state funds, plus the power of eminent domain, to acquire tracts of land to be used for new housing developments under the Federal program subsidized by Federal funds.

"In the Housing Agency, we believe that these tracts of land, when made available for new uses, should be freed from and should continue free from any racial restrictive covenants that may have been placed on that land in the past," Mr. Keith said.

"Mr. Foley, the Housing and Home Finance Administrator," he continued, "therefore intends to incorporate in the forthcoming regulations for the Title I program a requirement prohibiting the placing of any covenant on land sold or leased by local public agencies for redevelopment purposes which restricts the sale or occupancy of the property on the basis of race, color, or creed." This policy is in keeping with Supreme Court decisions, he pointed out.

* * *

ON THE OTHER hand, it has been pointed out that housing coming under the purview of the Slum Clearance and Urban Redevelopment program is not in the same category as housing which is projected by private realty agencies, regardless of how large a scale the private operations may be. The difference lies, evidently, in the aspect of public housing as compared with private housing.

A new clamor arose this week when the PHA spokesman said that "the way in which a local housing authority distributes its low-income tenants of different races among its various projects is to be left to local determination, so long as equitable provision is made for all races."

This same spokesman pointed out, however, that where a community constructed only one project and there was a need among both white and Negro families for low cost housing, members of both races would have to be admitted to the new project in equitable proportions.

* * *

IMPACT OF THE policy outlined by Mr. Keith is not to underestimated, howeevr, for it is aimed primarily at the elimination of slum areas and, admittedly, Negroes have suffered most in terms of health, disease, poverty, crime and death, under slums than any other American group.

The new policy has the authoriaztion of President Truman, Attorney General J. Howard McGrath, Home Finance Administrator Raymond M. Foley and FHA Commissioner Richards. Whether they will be able to put into effective operation curbs on large scale housing projects backed by private interests and which aim at maintaining racial segregation, is something which still remains to be seen.

In a statement made in New York last Thursday, NAACP Attorney Marshall said: "The new policy, however, does not break down all segregation in housing. It merely opens the way to the final disintegration of the ghetto. Much remains to be done, and a strong affirmative policy by the FHA would help. The NAACP will continue to attack segregated housing on all levels until the right to own, use and occupy property is in no way restricted by racial or religious factors."

No Change Viewed In Work of F.H.A.

Courier Pat. 12-10-49 46a

Pittsburgh, Pa. 46a

By STANLEY ROBERTS, Courier Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—A Government spokesman's speech—confusing, rather than clarifying the new anti-discrimination housing policy—caused consternation and widespread misunderstanding throughout the nation this week and served as a better than average illustration of how a civil rights pronouncement can raise false hopes among Negroes when it is made to appear what it is not. United States Solicitor General Philip B. Perlman dramatically announced to a meeting of the New York State Committee on Discrimination last Friday that no further FHA financing assistance would be given to any "racially restricted properties." Perlman said he spoke for President Truman, Attorney General McGrath and Home Finance Administrator Raymond M. Foley.

He said: "The Federal Housing Administration is amending its rules so as to refuse to aid the financing of any properities, the occupancy or use of which is restricted on the basis of race or creed or color."

* * *

THAT STATEMENT WAS taken to mean, and rightfully so, that the new rules would mean no more Federal dollars for housing that bars Negro tenants.

The statement meant that a builder who intends to construct an apartment house for whites only, or for Negroes only, will be unable to receive FHA insurance for his construction loans.

This was the meaning attributed to it by the Friday evening newspapers and radio commentators. Wire dispatches headed the story "urgent." And why not?

* * *

AS ONE NEWSMAN later pointed out, reporters are accustomed to believe that when the Solicitor General of the United States makes a statement, he means precisely what he says.

Solicitor General Perlman said that the entire matter had been gone over at the White House, with the Justice Department and all other interested agencies taking part, and that the changes would help implement the President's Civil Rights program.

"President Truman has been working on this matter for some time and the meetings over the results of his efforts," said Perlman.

* *

A STORM OF protest and praise immediately flooded Washington. The South boiled over, called it a tyrannical act by Truman and an inept bid for votes on the part of the Administration.

Builders and bankers, North and South, termed the rule "an ominous step toward centralization of Government."

On the other hand, many Negro leaders, thinking that the statement meant what it said, praised Truman to the skies. A typical comment was wired by Edgar G. Brown, director of the National Negro Council: "It speaks volumes for your statesmanship, official integrity and personal sincerity."

* * *

THUS EXISTED THE situation for twenty-four varied hours until someone discovered Mr. Perlman's speech had not been studied very closely.

On Saturday, Franklin D. Richards, head of the FHA, took the unusual step of calling his staff together on a week-end day so that a statement could be issued to clear up what he termed "any misunderstandings."

He pointed out later paragraphs from Mr. Perlman's speech:

"Under the amendments to be issued, no property will be eligible for FHA mortgage insurance if, after a date to be specified in the (new) amendments and before the FHA insurance mortgage is recorded, there has been recorded a convenant racially restricting the use or occupancy of the property.

"The new rules will not affect mortgage insurance already in force and will apply only to properties where the covenant in question and the insured mortgage are recorded after the date to be specified."

* * *

NOW WE FIND great differences between meanings of several statements.

Mr. Richards, seemingly realizing that Mr. Perlman's initial statement was not consistent with later parts of his speech, and in an obvious attempt to placate the South, explained to newsmen that the new anti-bias housing rules are not designed to prevent jim crow. He said the Government will "not attempt to control any owner in determining what tenants he shall have or to whom he shall sell his property."

Mr. Richards said the latter paragraphs are the essential ones of Mr. Perlman's announcement, not the first, and FHA was simply trying to bring its policy into line with the 1948 Supreme Court decision that restrictive covenants cannot be enforced in courts. He said the new regulations will not affect covenants now on record.

Late Sunday and on into this week the nation was getting back to normal. The South had once again been reassured after throwing its weight around in Washington. In effect, a Government agency had made a big noise and promised to adhere to a Supreme Court ruling.

* * *

MR. PERLMAN, IN speaking before a group whose aim it is to eliminate segregation in housing had tried, and undoubtedly did place the Truman Administration on the right side of the effort.

As the clouds cleared, one Southern paper eased its fears and said: "Actually, it appears from a closer reading of the Perlman statement and comments by Richards in addition to his statement, the new move in itself will have no actual immediate effect on new or old housing in the United States.

"The Supreme Court decision has knocked out the covenants and FHA is merely requiring builders and developers from now on to agree not to record any covenants, even if they have no force at law.

"The Government is not asking the builder or developer to agree not to discriminate in selling or renting—as the South yesterday assumed it did."

* * *

WHY WAS THIS trial balloon speech delivered at a luncheon session of a New York organization?

Why the premature announcement at this time instead of waiting until the FHA and the Truman Administration were ready to release the announcement in full?

It is evident that this move to make a publicity stunt out of defining the obvious has caused damage.

FHA Loans Not Altered By New Housing Ruling

46a

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—Clarifying the new policy banning Federal financing of racially restricted properties, the Federal Housing Administration last Saturday declared that the amendments to its regulations will apply to properties on which convenants are filed after the effective date.

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa. 12-10-49

This interpretation leaves builders free to obtain FHA-insured loans for the construction of housing for only white or only colored tenants or prospective purchasers.

United States Solicitor General Philip B. Perlman, speaking last Friday for President Truman and Attorney General J. Howard McGrath as well as Housing and Home Finance Administrator Raymond M. Foley, had said that Federal aid would be refused under the amended rules in "financing of any properties the occupancy or use of which is restricted on the basis of race and creed or color.

The clarifying statement issued last Saturday by Franklin D. Richards, FHA Commissioner, said FHA was simply trying to get its policy in line with the decision of the United, States Supreme Court that racially restrictive convenants cannot be judicially enforced.

Study in U.S. Morality

FHA Bias 'Ban'

CLOSE reading of the Federal Housing Administration's ban on racial bias in Federally financed housing reveals that we have another weasel-worded decision which amounts to very little, except as a Democratic campaign document for 1950.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and associated liberal groups have been trying to smoke out the FHA for a long time on this matter of racial restriction in Federally financed housing; and while there is no reason to wax enthusiastic over the statement of Solicitor General Philip B. Pearlman, it is gratifying to know that the Administration sufficiently recognizes the power of the Negro vote to make a gesture of liberality even if its intention be suspect.

Of course the big hole in this announcement is that it refers only to new housing and not to that which is already built or constructed.

Moreover, these projects or developments must contain specific provisions for racial segregation or exclusion in contracts, deeds or mortgages before the "ban" can be enforced.

In other words, as Franklin D. Richards, Federal Housing Administration Commissioner, said the other day, the new policy will have little effect on FHA activity.

Therefore, this decision takes its place alongside many similar gestures which have amounted to much ado about nothing.

Far more interesting than the decision itself is the revelation of American immorality in the reactions of real estate men to the "ban".

* * *

From all parts of the country have come comment from numerous real estate men who are pillars of rectitude, morality and patriotism in their respective communities.

As might be expected, these realtors, North and South, have made the lugubrious comment that this decision means the end of Federally insured private dwelling projects.

Thus Jack Helm, executive vice president of the Home Builders Association of New Orleans, says: "I don't know how it's going to apply down here. We're building homes for white people. Do they expect us to sell them to Negroes, too?"

Thus E. Hicks, executive vice president of the Georgia Savings and Loan League, stresses that his organization has always been opposed to Government entrance into the housing field and has warned that "just such as this would happen."

Thus James E. Robinson, chairman of the Atlanta Housing Authority, says: "I don't think anyone would insist on enforcing such a thing in this section. If an apartment were built on Peach Street in Atlanta I don't think they would force us to admit Negro tenants."

Thus the contracting firm of Folmar and Flin of Montgomery, Ala., announces that the decision will mean "the end of home construction" in Montgomery.

* * *

Like otherwise, Dr. H. E. Christianbury, director of the Knoxville Housing Authority, does not see how the rule could work there.

Moving Northward, we hear from Clarence Kanickman of Long Island, that this move will kill the FHA and that he expects changes will be made in the new regulations.

The New Jersey Association of Real Estate Boards is "dismayed" at the prospect that banks and other lending institutions may halt further Government-financed and insured loans for homes, which may decline as much as 50 per cent in new housing plans during the first half of 1950.

Robert W. Levitt of New York, vice president of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, views the rule as another effort of the Administration to "slap down" private building activity.

Similarly, Alexander Summer of New Jersey, a prominent realtor, predicts a drastic decline in FHA-insured garden apartments in New York and New Jersey.

Then there is Emmanuel Spiegel, president of the New Jersey Association of Home Builders, who says the decision is "creating new problems, particularly in Southern states, by checking activity everywhere," even to the extent of causing a new crisis in housing production for veterans.

* * *

There are many more statements of this kind from solid and, doubtless, God-fearing patriots in the real estate business from coast to coast; and all together they reveal a state of moral illness which is appalling.

What these "good" citizens are saying is that bias "ban" or not, the housing picture is not going to be changed in-so-far as barring or segregating Negroes is concerned, and that's that.

Neither the Ten Commandments nor the Sermon on the Mount means anything to these gentlemen who are profiting from the perpetuation of residential segregation, and they do not care who knows it.

These gentlemen, being representative Americans, one wonders how such a nation so represented can assume the moral leadership of the world.

The FHA and the Supreme Court

Announcement of new rules by the FHA regarding racial discrimination in housing follow, and are made necessary by, the recent ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States against restrictive covenants.

The court ruled that while oral agreements of a restrictive nature could be made, they would have no legal standing and would be valid, naturally, only so long as those making the oral agreement abided by it.

A written agreement, in a deed or in a contract, restricting housing to persons of one race or religion, is not legal and has no standing in court.

The new ruling does not affect public housing. It does directly affect, however, the large private developments, such as have been, and are being, built in large cities, particularly New York, and which are guaranteed by FHA loans. Those under contract will not be affected. The ruling will begin to apply only when the FHA announces its rules within the near future. FHA has insured about one-third of all the private housing built and under construction. It is, of course, not involved.

The case in a nutshell is simply this: The FHA will not, in the future, insure any building project, or single unit or apartment house buildings, in which there is any written agreement restricting occupancy because of race or religion.

It is not a part of the administration "civil rights" program, but is an announcement made necessary because of a Supreme Court decision by which, of course, any government agency must abide. The original press service announcements did not interpret the announcement.

Unless the whole story has not yet been told the interpretation above seems to be the full and complete one.

Thaddeus Truman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2—(AP)—The federal government announced today that no further FHA financing assistance will be given to any "racially restricted properties."

This we believe, is Truman's most uthless tyrannical act.

With the zeal of a religious bigot, with he unsparing contempt of a Thaddeus Stevens, with the gross political gain motive of a two-bit ward heeler, with he cynical calculation of the grossest Pharisee—this pennyweight Caesar has terminated FHA housing assistance to a fourth of the nation.

He has nullified hundreds of local segregation laws in the South. He has terminated this program, financed in part by Southern tax money, as arbitrarily as he terminated Lend-Lease to England.

The nullification of Southern segregation laws is accomplished, not by action of Congress, but simply by directions spoken in a nasal Missouri twang to an obedient hireling.

The viciousness of this act surpasses his advocacy of F. E. P. C. legislation. For in the case of the latter, he is simply asking Congress, the representative of the people, to sustain him. Frustrated there, he has, as it were, "taken the law into his own hands."

★

IT IS THE logical sequel to his order that segregation in the armed services be destroyed. Unable to work his will on Congress, he pounced upon the army as the only province where he could assert himself, and thus endear himself to Negro voters in the pivotal states.

In telling a Montgomery duplex builder that he cannot segregate regardless of local law and custom, this grim little tyrant is simply expanding his army order.

And in view of the army and FHA directives, is there any doubt that Truman will apply them wherever the nature of federal grants permits?

Will he not go on to apply this to such as the free school lunch program, etc.?

We can't think of any reason whatever why he will not extend his assault on segregation as far as possible.

He may even carry it as far as Washington, D. C., where the schools are segregated, where the hotels do not register Negroes and where in 1948 the Code of Ethics of the Washington Real Estate Board contained this passage:

"No property in a white section should ever be sold, rented, advertised, or offered to colored people."

★

THERE is a mountain of irony in the fact that the government of the United States in the course of the death struggles of World War I and II countenanced military exemption for conscientious objectors but does not countenance the established folkway of segregation.

★

HOWEVER, we Southerners may as well abate our angry denunciations of Thaddeus Truman long enough to take a cold look at our circumstance.

We have got to appreciate the new fact of our political life that the country is now "formally Democratic," not Republican, as once.

Truman is chieftain of the mightiest party in the history of this country since the Federalist Party of Washington's day.

Truman appears to be the likely nominee in 1952. As of now, barring Eisenhower, it may be reasoned that Truman would again win. He is so far as we can see, a more powerful force now than he was in the 1948 campaign.

At the 1948 convention in Philadelphia, Truman and McGrath made an offer of compromise on the civil rights plank; to wit, the same meaningless twaddle on which the party had been campaigning for years.

This was rejected. The party was thus forced to make a choice between the South and critical support in the Northeastern states. As it always will when faced with this choice, the party favored the Northeast.

The South does not own the Democratic party. Roosevelt would have won all four times without a single vote from the South. Labor is a larger stockholder in the party than the South.

The Dixiecrat effort accomplished something in drawing attention to the South's case, and it was worth an experiment. But plainly the Dixiecrats are a cap pistol outfit with little past and less future.

★

THE ONLY discernible hope for making Southern weight felt is for the South to become a two-party region. The splinter party inspires less respect than scorn. That was clearly seen recently when Harold Stassen said the G. O. P. wanted none of the Dixiecrats.

We will not be an object of bidding until the Republicans have reason to believe they can win in the South. Meanwhile, we remain, to the Republicans, an eccentric region which can't forget something that happened 80 years ago.

Why bother? the G. O. P. asks.

And in candor, we must answer, No reason that we see.

FHA Ukase Held Threat to Negroes

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Southern newspapers today leveled sharp criticism at the Government's new move to curb racial and religious discrimination in housing accommodations.

The Federal Housing Administration announced yesterday it is amending its rules and would refuse to help finance any properties restricting occupancy on the basis of race, creed or color.

Editorial comment in the South included:

Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser: "This, we believe, is Truman's most ruthless tyrannical act. With the zeal of a religious bigot, with the unsparing contempt of a Thaddeus Stevens, with the gross political gain motive of a two-bit ward heeler, with the cynical calculation of the closet Disraeli—this pennyweight Caesar has terminated FHA housing assistance to a fourth of the nation."

Mobile (Ala.) Press-Register: "By denying Federal financing assistance in the construction of any home or homes project where there are to be racial restrictions, Mr. Truman is doing terrific injury to those he may think he is helping.

"What he is doing, if he did but know it, is to make it virtually impossible for colored persons in the South to benefit from slum clearance projects. There are few, if any, cities in the South where housing boards or municipal governments will seek projects of this nature if it is understood that whites and Negroes will live side-by-side there.

Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press: "The barring of Federal housing assistance to projects where segregation is practiced has been proposed in Congress every time a housing bill has come up and such amendment has always been defeated.

"Yet it should cause no surprise that the Aministration now does by executive order the very thing that Congress has repeatedly refused to sanction. The history and nature of Government subsidies is that Government control invariably goes along with the Government dollars and the controls are pushed even farther. Those who look to the Government for subsidies must be prepared to accept Government controls of every nature."

Columbus (Ga.) Ledger: "It isn't pertinent to argue the morals of segregation. That is but an incidental factor. Let us grant that segregation is repugnant to democratic ideals. Overshadowing all of this is that another ominous step toward centralization of government has been taken. The central government is bleeding all States white of tax money, then feeding it back under an authority it has been allowed to assume to regulate manners, morals and State statutes. This is but a preview of what will happen if the central government is permitted to bore into our school system under the guise of aid-to-education."

The Tampa (Fla.) Times, under the title of "Scurrilous Bid for Votes," said:

"It is an inept bid for votes on the part of the administration and is nothing more than a politically maneuvered scheme that can accomplish little other than to fan the fires of racial tension."

"The pseudo-liberals in Washington are not helping Negroes in their deliberate efforts to ram a program down the throat of the South that is not only premature, but impractical at this time."

Thomasville (Ga.) Times-Enterprise: "The rule will not have any material effect except in the South and it was for that reason that it was designed and installed by the President. It is a thinly veiled effort to add further confusion to the states-rights issue and is merely anti-South as might be expected for this and many other projects."

Dothan (Ala.) Eagle:—"Truman and Company will do anything they think will pick them up some votes from minority groups, regardless of whom it hurts. It points up also that they will abuse their authority to administer laws if it suits their purpose.

"When the FHA was established, it was never intended that this agency would be used as a lever to force social reforms. Yet that is exactly how the President and his political associates are using it."

Social Workers' Problems Counted in Final Speech

Atlanta Daily Constitution

By MILTON CHAMBERS

A reminder that the social worker must think of the individual as well as his welfare was the note on which the Georgia Conference of Social Welfare ended its two-day meeting last night at the First Methodist Church.

Joseph Anderson, Executive Secretary of the American Association of Social Workers, gave the final address of the meeting, entitled "Issues Facing the Profession of Social Work Today."

10-27-49

Introduced by Forrester B. Washington, Director of the Atlanta University School of Social Work, he proceeded to give an account of problems facing welfare workers.

The greatest problem, he said, is the acute shortage of qualified social workers who can meet the problems brought on by our present-day civilization. "Only when the States take over training facilities, as they did for teachers, will we be able to meet the need."

Another big problem today, he stated, is the number of people without qualifications who are exploiting the fact that such numbers want advice on personal problems. "The association hopes within the next few years to get legal qualifications set up to judge the competency of those advertising themselves for social work," he said.

"On one phase we are making progress," Anderson said, "that of determining the best methods for going about filling social needs. However, we will not be able to improve our professional performance until we have more research facilities and unity in the field by which that knowledge can be spread and all social workers informed of the latest and best methods."

ATLANTANS HAIL NEW HOUSING BILL

BY C. W. GREENLEA

Atlanta Negro leaders Thursday hailed passage of President Truman's multi-billion dollar housing bill the U. S. House of Representatives. If the bill becomes law, they believe that Negroes the country over who live in slum areas, will stand to gain tremendously from new housing and employment during the building of upwards of 1,000,000 dwelling units.

Meeting in Atlanta, the Georgia Association of Citizens Democratic Clubs issued a warning to its county chapters throughout the state to be alert to every opportunity to get new housing for Negro citizens.

WARN FARMERS

The housing bill as passed by both the House and Senate also provides for grants for run down farms and farm-house construction. Negroes in rural counties are urged by the Democratic leaders to be alert to farm proposals of their local county housing commissions, farm boards, and district housing and farm areas. They are advised to submit plans to such agencies and to be alert to any evidences of racial discrimination in allotments for construction.

TECH PROJECT POSSIBLE

In Atlanta, Urban League officials, displaying a model housing project designed by Georgia Tech students, expressed open elation at passage of the housing bill. Robert A. Thompson, explaining the model of the project which would cover a huge area of the old fourth ward and cost $72 million, stated that the project is so immense and wonderful that it is "just a dream." He added, however, that the new housing bill might place it within the realm of possibility.

Several other slum areas in Summerhill, Pittsburgh, and near the Terminal Station, have been known to be under consideration of the city planning commission and the Atlanta Housing Authority. Immediate plans of housing and city officials in light of a new housing law, have not been disclosed.

More Housing for Atlanta

Atlanta Housing Authority offices yesterday received official notice from the Government that $500,000 had been made available to begin work on the first of two housing developments, one for colored and one for white citizens.

The Negro development, because of the more acute need and the destruction of several hundred units of their housing by the express highway, will be built first. It will be constructed on former city property, and will be adjacent to Clark University. This latter means there will be no possible objection to the location, a fact which makes it unique.

We are happy to hear that bids will be sought in early January and work will follow as soon thereafter as possible. Later on plans for the white units will be presented. This will be low-rental housing with amortization spread across a longer period of years than private investment cares to, or can, assume.

Just a Lie! Harlem No Loafers Hangout

The Courier, Pittsburgh Pa.
Sat. 5-14-49

By GEORGE S. SCHUYLER, Associate Editor
(Fourth in a Series)

NEW YORK—One of the stereotypes of Harlem, dear to the hearts of propagandists, is that the black community mainly loafs for a living. Even some alleged intellectuals among Negroes who make a living exploiting Harlem's "grief" have pictured the streets crowded with aimless and jobless men by day and predatory women by night.

It has also been held to be a reservoir for scabs prepared at all times to sabotage striking white workers. With the chant that the Negro is "last to be hired and first to be fired" has gone the implication that the majority of employables are usually unemployed or in fear of it. On this basis most of the blues-singing articles and books about Harlem have been written with the monotonous refrain of "Lo! The Poor Negro!" Let us leave the realm of fiction and get down to facts.

Sat. 5-14-49

WHO PAYS THE BILLS?

It is not surprising that strangers visiting Harlem instead of reading propaganda tracts about it are astonished to find so much well-being. The streets are crowded with Negro-owned cars, the garages are full and in many thoroughfares automobiles are parked at night bumper to bumper. How did they get them if they are poverty-stricken and jobless?

There are more churches in Harlem than in any other comparable area in New York City and almost all of them have been paid for within the past twenty years, many costing $500,000. How were they paid for?

There are more owner-occupied dwellings in the Harlem area than in any other section of Manhattan Island. Where did the money come from to buy them?

There are savings deposits in excess of forty million dollars in the banks of the community and at least two of the postal savings banks have the largest deposits in the borough. Where did the people get this money?

There are more business establishments in Harlem than there were when it was almost entirely occupied by whites, and around 4,300 are operated by Negroes. Who patronizes these businesses and where did Negroes get the money to start them?

The great fraternal organizations such as the Elks, Odd Fellows and Masons have purchased many fine buildings, and some of them have built excellent apartment houses. Where did the members get the money to spare for this?

There are literally thousands of Harlem Negroes in civil service as policemen, firemen, school teachers, nurses, clerks, custodians, elevator operators, guards, engineers, conductors, change-makers and various other jobs serving the municipality. They are paid as regularly and as much as whites in similar positions.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

As of February 1949, there were 79,557 persons on Home Relief in the City of New York. Of this number 13,913 were in the Harlem area. There is no reason for assuming that all of these persons were colored since more than one-third of the 426,000 persons in Negro Harlem and Spanish-Italian Harlem combined are white and many of the remainder are Puerto Ricans. Even if we assume that all of the 13,913 relief receivers were colored, we must also assume that the other Negroes were employed or did not need relief. This is scarcely a picture of a loafing, jobless community.

Sat 5-14-49

Since nobody gets rent free in Harlem (or elsewhere) and since there are 62,753 dwellings in Negro Harlem and 72,507 in the Upper East Side which partially includes Spanish-Italian Harlem, it is certainly logical to suppose these people are paying rent—and they're not using cigar coupons!

LABOR ORGANIZING

According to Frank R. Crosswaith, veteran laborite and general organizer of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, at least one-third of the Negroes in Harlem are members of labor unions. Mr. Crosswaith was one of the pioneers in bringing the message of unionism to black Harlem. Preceding him A. Philip Randolph and Chandler Owen began organizing Negro hotel bellmen as early as 1916. They launched a magazine, **The Hotel Messenger**, and worked with the stevedores, many of whom were already in AFL and IWW unions. At the same time much organization work was going on among dining car employes and as early as 1925 one of the Negro unions had offices in Harlem. Considerable numbers of Negroes working as foundation workers or "sandhogs" were also in unions.

WORKERS UNSKILLED

Traditionally, Negro workers in New York had been confined to laboring, menial and domestic work. They had to fight their way to the stevedore jobs against the well-intrenched Irish and many a bloody battle was fought on their way to and from work.

The building trades, skilled mechanical jobs, clothing work and, of course, clerical, commercial, department store and banking jobs were closed to them. There was little work available for colored women except as domestics. The exclusive hotels and restaurants rarely hired Negroes as waiters and cooks, and even the cheapest places kept Negro help out of sight in the kitchen. The Negro painter, plasterer, bricklayer, plumber and electrician were generally out of luck, save for non-union work. There were exceptions, of course, as there always are, but generally speaking, the skilled and higher-paid jobs in New York a quarter-century ago and even later were for whites only.

It was against this background that the charge of being a scab was leveled against Harlemites. There was considerable truth in the charge, but under the circumstances scabbing was eminently justified. It was the penalty white unionism had to pay for maintaining the color bar. The first duty of the Negro was to himself. He had to eat and pay rent, clothe himself and his family, and he was taking any job he could get. It was ridiculous for prejudiced white unionists to expect Negroes not to take their jobs in time of industrial strife when they were normally denied jobs. Even Negro union members from out of town and holding cards were excluded from some unions.

GO TO FACTORIES

The first break for Negro women away from domestic service came with their employment in downtown clothing factories and dress houses. Most of these were "open shop," but since the newly organized International Ladies Garment Workers and Amalgamated Clothing Workers unions were vigorously extending their control in the industry, these colored women were soon holding union cards. Even in the early Twenties there were 6,000 in the ILGWU and today there are close to 20,000, although all of them do not live in Negro Harlem. Today less than a third of the colored women are in domestic service.

PULLMAN PORTERS SAGA

In Harlem the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters was born in 1925, and still has its international headquarters there. In the summer of 1925 a group of dissatisfied Pullman porters led by Ashley L. Totten (now international secretary-treasurer) approached A. Philip Randolph, co-editor of the Messenger, about organizing a union. Randolph agreed to lead the fight and entered the campaign with vim, vigor and intelligence.

NOTE: New York's Harlem is the most maligned community in the United States. No other urban area has been lied about more viciously and consistently as poverty-stricken, overcrowded, crime-infested, thriftless, unenterprising, filthy, diseased and forgotten. Malicious or misguided agitators from without and within have minimized every virtue and magnified every vice. Forty years ago when the area's Negroes were largely concentrated between West 134th and 136th Streets and Seventh and Lenox Avenues, Harlem was regarded as symbolic of middle-class urban felicity. But today, when the same area is chiefly occupied by Negroes with a large minority of Puerto Ricans, Italians, Finns, Russians, Irish and others, it is represented as the nadir of slum-shocked degradation and despair. Hailed twenty years ago by Negroes as a city of refuge, it is now slurred, even by some of its spokesmen, as a city of refuse. Revolted by this sinister stereotype of the largest Negro community, The Pittsburgh Courier's associate editor, a thirty-year resident, has written a series of articles telling the truth about Harlem. This is the fourth.—Editor.

The Truth About Harlem

Harlem's Low Health Mark Due to Apathy

Pittsburgh Courier 46a Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 5-28-49

By GEORGE S. SCHUYLER, Associate Editor

(Sixth in a Series)

NEW YORK—By general agreement of the local medical profession and the New York City Health Department, ignorance and indifference are the worst enemies of Harlem health. Sat. 5-28-49

With all of the facilities available, it is shameful that Harlem's infant mortality, tuberculosis, syphilis and gonorrhea rates are the highest in New York City.

NOTE: New York's Harlem is the most maligned community in the United States. No other urban area has been lied about more viciously and consistently as poverty-stricken, overcrowded, crime-infested, thriftless, unenterprising, filthy, diseased and forgotten. Malicious or misguided agitators from without and within have minimized every virtue and magnified every vice. Forty years ago when the area's Negroes were largely concentrated between West 134th and 136th Streets and Seventh and Lenox Avenues, Harlem was regarded as symbolic of middle-class urban felicity. But today, when the same area is chiefly occupied by Negroes with a large minority of Puerto Ricans, Italians, Finns, Russians, Irish and others, it is represented as the nadir of slum-shocked degradation and despair. Hailed twenty years ago by Negroes as a city of refuge, it is now slurred, even by some of its spokesmen, as a city of refuse. Revolted by the sinister stereotpye of the largest Negro community, The Pittsburgh Courier's associate editor, a thirty-year resident, has written a series of articles telling the truth about Harlem. This is the sixth.—Editor.

Pittsburgh Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

According to the latest available vital statistics, the Central Harlem Health Center district has the highest number of newly reported tuberculosis cases in the city. While most health centers had around 250 cases and many less in 1948, Central Harlem reported 1,002 cases and East Harlem reported 544.

IGNORANCE BLAMED Sat. 5-28-49

This can be attributed more to bad diet, inattention to personal hygiene, excesses and general ignorance than to the easy "out" of overcrowding. There are more crowded areas in Manhattan than Harlem.

Too many infants perish perhaps for the same reason. There were 5,393 births in Central Harlem in 1948, yielding a birth rate of 24.8 per 1,000 population, compared to a city-wide birth rate of 19.5 per 1,000. But the infant mortality rate (deaths of children under one year of age) was 47.5 per 1,000 live births for Central Harlem and 31.9 for East Harlem as compared with 26.4 for the city as a whole.

Fortunately there has been a decline in the infant mortality rate in these two districts in the past few years as the following table shows:

Sat 5-28-49

	'38-40	'46-48	Drop
Central Harlem...	67	48	28%
East Harlem.....	56	35	37%
New York City....	40	27	32%

syphilis. Sat 5-28-49

While there has been a decrease in the syphilis rate, there has been reported a 57 per cent increase in the gonorrhea rate. There were 5,945 newly reported cases of this dread affliction in 1947 compared to 3,821 in 1940. At the same time most health districts in the city had less than 500 newly reported cases of syphilis and gonorrhea in 1947.

Here again the Central Harlem's high venereal disease rate cannot be attributed to poverty because the period was one of unparalleled prosperity.

There is certainly no scarcity of health facilities available for the residents of Harlem Health Center which opened in October, 1937, and communities.

It is also noteworthy that while the general Central Harlem deaths in 1948 totaled 2,684 giving a death rate from all causes of 12.4, this is not much more than that of the city as a whole which was 10.1. The Harlem death rate while still abnormally high is far below that of most comparable Negro urban

DIPHTHERIA-TYPHOID DOWN Sat. 5-28-49

Another hopeful sign is the report of only three cases of diphtheria and one death from this disease in Central Harlem during 1948, which compares favorably with other health centers in the city which reported from one to seventeen cases for 1948.

It is cause for rejoicing that there was not a single case of typhoid fever in Central Harlem during 1948. Only two other health districts were completely free of typhoid fever. Altogether there were sixty-one cases in the entire city.

VENEREAL DISEASE BAD

It is an admitted and disgraceful fact that the newly reported cases of syphilis and gonorrhea in Central Harlem make its rates the highest in New York City. While the 1948 figures for venereal disease have not been tabulated as yet by districts, the 1947 figures show 5,893 newly reported cases of

Truth The Courier About Harlem

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Churches Credited With Keeping Harlem Very Much Alive

Sat. 6-11-49

By GEORGE SCHUYLER

(Last in a Series)

NEW YORK—If it is a fact that a quarter million "slum-shocked" Harlem Negroes are helples in the tentacles of vice, disease, shiftlessness, bitterness and crime, then the community must be spiritually ill unto death. Actually it is the liveliest "corpse" imaginable, and what has helped most to make it so is the community's religious activity. Sat. 6-11-49

Isn't it strange that most of the writers on Harlem have rarely mentioned that? And yet the most conspicuous features of the Harlem skyline as viewed from the western heights are the steeples of its numerous churches.

The number is over a hundred of all kinds, and among them are some of the greatest institutions of their kind in the world. The famous Abyssinian Baptist Church on West 138th Street, which is now celebrating its Silver Jubilee in Harlem, has 17,000 members, the largest membership of any church in the United States, regardless of color, and was organized in 1808 when Thomas Jefferson was President. It occupies a beautiful building valued at $500,000 without debt, its budget for 1949 is $6,500, and during its quarter century in Harlem it has raised $1,500,000. Its dynamic pastor is Adam Clayton Powell Jr., who is also a member of the United States House of Representatives from the Twentieth (Harlem) District.

While Abyssinian Baptist Church is the largest religious institution of its kind in Harlem, others of importance have similar programs. Consider an institution like Mother Zion AME Church, pastored by the Rev. Benjamin C. Robeson, with 6,624 members and a magnificent structure valued at $450,000 with a $12,500 parsonage, and owning its $15,000 private burial ground.

There are at least a half dozen Roman Catholic churches serving the Harlem area and with an aggregate membership of over 15,000, and of course, they serve parishioners of all colors and backgrounds alike. In addition to activities similar to those mentioned in connection with the Protestant churches, they maintain parochial schools of high quality. The pastor of one of these says "We have 600 colored people parishoners now, about one hundred converts per year in the last five years. This parish was formerly all white. Thank God we have a perfect tolerant people here in every way. We are all Catholics, Christians and Americans in our parish." So speaks Father James M. Kane of St. Catherine of Genoa Church whach has a total membership of 1,900. Here as elsewhere in the Archdiocese the color line is "out." It is heartening to see colored and white entering and leaving churches and parochial schools together in close Christian fellowship.

There are several Protestant Episcopal churches in Harlem with all of the colorful and dignified service to be found anywhere. Best known, of course, is St. Philip's on West 134th Street, with is beloved pastor, Father Shelton Hale Bishop.

Oven on Lenox Avenue which is supposed to mark the nadir of degradation in Harlem, is the stately St. Martin Episcopal Church which has been located on the corner of 122nd Street and Lenox for twenty-one years. Its 3,000 members are housed in a fine structure valued at $500,000, completely paid for. Its parsonage is valued at $25,000. Its famous pastor, the Rev. John H. Johnson, is a chaplain in the New York City Police Department and is best known for his leadership in the campaign for employment of Negro clerks in stores along 125th Street.

One of the great Presbyterian churches of New York City is St. James, located at West 141st Street and St. Nicholas Avenue. It is valued at $520,000 and is completely paid for, like all of the larger churches in Harlem. Its parsonage is valued at $,8000. The pastor is the Rev. Shelby Rooks.

Another outstanding Presbyterian church admirably serving the community is the Morningside Avenue Church pastored by the Rev. James H. Robinson. It is noted for its cooperative store, its community center and its interracial social service staff. It also owns a fine vacation camp in New Hampshire far from the heat and dust of the vertical city.

The Stately St. Mark ME Church which occupies the triangle near the junction of St. Nicholas and Edgecombe Avenus, is valued at $750,000, has 4,200 members and was founded in 1872. It has been in Harlem twenty-five years. It is pastored by the Rev. Samuel H. Sweeney.

Then there is that rock of Christianity and service, Salem Methodist Church whose work in promoting clean sports and clean living, is almost legendary in the city; Mount Olivet Baptist Church on Lenox Avenue at the corner of 120th Street, which was founded in 1878, has been located in the community for twenty-three years and whose 6,000 members own a structure valued at $450,000, and a parsonage worth $50,000.

I estimate that the aggregate church membership in Harlem is around 100,000.

Another side of religious activity in Harlem is the work of the New York Mission Society whose Harlem unit serves seventeen churches of nine denominations through a cooperative program. It furnishes trained personnel for religious education and assists seven centers in conducting Released Time Schools. 6-11-49

PSYCHO-ANALYZING JUNIOR:

Harlem Center Gets Interracial Board

NEW YORK—The Northside Center for Child Development, established two years ago by Dr. Kenneth B. Clark and his wfie, Dr. Mamie Phipps Clark as a movement to arrest abnormal tendencies in Harlem children, has been recently reorganized on an interracial basis.

During the past year the center, located at 31 West 110th St., gave service to 282 children, 15 per cent of whom were white. They range from two to 18 years and about a third are female.

Through its reorganization the service has been placed on a much sounder financial basis which included a grant of $10,00 from the National Mental Health Act Fund.

Philanthropist Heads Board

The new board of directors is headed by Mrs. Marion Rosenwald Ascott, philanthropist, and Miss Charlotte Carr, executive secretary of the Citizens' Committee on Children in New York, is secretary-treasurer.

Members of the staff include four psychologists, three pediatricians, four psychiatric social workers and ten therapists. A small fee is charged for each admissions but admissions account for only 10 per cent of operating costs.

Functions of the agency, briefly, are to find out what is wrong with Junior who has become the despair of either his parents or teacher, and to help restore him to normal childhood.

The founders feel that the center has a useful future and that its possibilities are limitless, especially in Harlem where many children are left to themselves while both parents are at work.

The Truth About Harlem

Harlem Far From Being Forgotten'

By GEORGE S. SCHUYLER

Seventh in a Series

It fits most conveniently into the propaganda campaign against Harlem to have the general public believe that it is a "forgotten" community, shoved off to one side like a leper colony and neglected by civic and social agencies. As might be suspected, this is a gross perversion of the truth.

From prenatal clinics to old age pensions, Harlem has all the facilities other communities enjoy, and because of the constant pressure exerted by alert individuals and groups interested in the progress of the area, it often gets more consideration than comparable neighborhoods in the Greater City.

The assignment of public health nurses illustrates this point. The Bureau of Public Health Nursing of the New York City Department of Health is considerably understaffed and for the city as a whole there is only one health nurse for each 9,500 persons. But in the Central Harlem area there is one public health nurse for each 3,600 persons and in East Harlem there is one for each 4,200 persons. Serving in the two chief hospitals of the Harlem area are 325 graduate registered nurses, 108 practical nurses and 371 attendants, all Negroes. There are colored nurses serving in hospitals and districts throughout the city.

In Harlem there is the well known Katy Ferguson Home on West 130th Street which has served the community well for many, many years. It is a temporary shelter for unwed mothers, and applicants are accepted as early as the six-month stage of pregnancy if they have a negative Wasserman and are in good health. It is non-sectarian and interracial.

Down on West Fifteenth Street is Inwood House which shelters unwed mothers and their babies for a small fee no higher than $40 monthly and usually less. It is also non-sectarian and interracial. Likewise is the White Rose Home on West 136th Street.

One of the oldest institutions of this kind is the well-known Hope Day Nursery which cares for children from seven months to five and a half year of age, and is also interracial and non-sectarian. Equally well-known is the Utopia Children's Center which takes children from five to eleven years of age during the day. All these institutions were founded and are operated by Negroes.

Presently the Riverdale Children's Association is trying to find homes for seventy-five children referred to it by the courts and the Welfare Department. The majority of children handled by the Association are Negroes.

Executive director of the Association is Mrs. Audre T. Delaney of Harlem and the secretary is Mrs. Peyton F. Anderson another distinguished citizen of the colored community. While there are other agencies helping Negro children in New York, Riverdale is the oldest and is doing a job that merits the widest support.

MANY BOY SCOUTS

There are forty scout units in the Harlem District, for cub scouts, ages nine to twelve; Scouts, ages twelve to fifteen, and Senior Scouts, ages fifteen to eighteen, totaling over 900.

Another important agency refuting the charge that Harlem is neglected is the Harlem Children's Center on West 134th Street, which is a branch of the Children's Aid Society. Headed by Marvin N. Riley, a Harlemite, there are 3,000 youngsters registered as members and 600 use the beautiful building every day and its many facilities. Recently more than 100 children were honored at the annual banquet for outstanding achievement.

One of the biggest and most important YMCA branches in the world is located in Harlem in a skyscraper building which can be seen for miles. Directly across 135th Street is its dormitory building which is as large as most hotels. The YMCA's Harlem Branch moved uptown from Fifty-third Street in the wake of the migrating thousands in 1919 and moved into the brand new building which is now its dormitory. It had 542 members.

Consider the Harlem Branch of the YWCA. The branch moved uptown from Fifty-third Street to West 132nd Street in 1912, when its membership was 200. Seven years later it moved to its present building and its membership was around 1,200. In 1926 it built and opened for residence its Emma Ransom House where single young women can live in wholesome surroundings.

In September, 1910 when Harlem was nearly all white, the school population was 54,064 in twenty-three buildings. In September, 1948, with Harlem largely colored, the school population was 38,794 in twenty-nine buildings, which immediately disposes of the overcrowding myth. Remember that the total population of Central and East Harlem together was 526,720 in 1910 whereas the total in 1948 was 426,000 and only a little over half of these are American Negroes.

GEORGE S.

SCHUYLER VIEWS and REVIEWS

English Physician Takes Exception to Schuyler's Column

(This column represents the personal opinion of Mr. Schuyler and in no way reflects the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors)

AN English physician, Dr. C. Errington Kerr, who lives in Surrey and happens to be colored, takes exception to a recent column in which I stated that "economic opportunity for Negroes in England is virtually nil."

George S. Schuyler

He writes: "I must correct this mistaken view. I, a Negro physician, have lived in London for twenty-two years and have practiced medicine here for the greater part of that time. Among my patients and friends I have known many colored people working as school teachers, tailors, dressmakers, factory workers, mechanics, bank clerks and also some in the civil service. These people lead, for the most part, stable and contented lives and are less vocal in their denunciation of working conditions here than the unemployed, the colored theatrical workers and the ne'er-do-wells."

"Most Negro observers from America," he continues, "meet only three classes of Negroes when visiting England—the professional class, that is doctors, etc.; people working in shows and the unemployed or unemployable. It requires fairly long residence here before one meets the Negroes in other walks of life.

* * *

"THE PSYCHIATRIST and chief physiotherapist at my local hospital are colored. There are colored teachers in the two local high schools, and a colored resident, not far from where I live, is professor of languages at London University. The problem here is basically the same as in America. If Negroes are trained and have some skill they can get jobs. Indeed, they often seem to have priority over whites. It is only the unskilled Negroes who are unemployed and who make the loudest noise."

He adds a concluding note: "An interesting sidelight shown by an experience I had just before the last war: I had need of gardeners to develop some property in the suburbs of London. I sought out among the Negro unemployed the biggest and strongest I could find and offered them wages in excess of the usual paid for that kind of work, even offering free carfare. Not one of the Negroes accepted—they preferred to remain unemployed. I eventually had to employ Englishmen who literally jumped at the offer."

The amiable doctor requests that I comment on this behavior.

* * *

WELL, FIRST OFF I am delighted to learn that working conditions are better in England for Negroes than I had thought. My observations and investigations were confined to Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, London and Cardiff, and by virtue of the fact that my time was short there was admittedly much that I did not learn. However, the people I interviewed were not ne'er-do-wells, theatre folk and jobless by preference, but businessmen, clergymen, government officials and officers of the Co-operative Society of Great Britain. All of them took a very dim view of the economic opportunities available for Negroes in England, and some of them were very bitter about it, especially a clergyman in Liverpool who ran a mission in a section where many Negroes lived.

My Negro host in Cardiff (where I was refused accommodation at the four leading hotels) was bitter, too. Of course, that was back in 1931, during the world depression. However, since recent Negro visitors to England have told practically the same story, I am delighted to get the other side of the picture from one whose intelligence and integrity I respect.

* * *

AS FOR THE unwillingness of some of our folk to work, one encounters that everywhere. The pity is that demagogues have won so many of these people over by telling them that the world owes them a living and that society is obligated to squander increasing taxes to keep them alive. Of course, nobody ever explains why, since they are making no contribution to society's maintenance or advancement. This type had a field day under Roosevelt, drinking and loafing at the expense of the industrious. I recall that at the time I was in England there was a great hubbub over the so-called means test which was an effort to curb the free-loaders and chiselers who were having a ball at public expense. These were white people, so there's nothing racial about it.

The problem of the lazy, shiftless and indifferent is world-wide. Even the rugged and bloody Soviet regime has had a tough time getting the Russian workers to all be punctual, industrious and thrifty. The original theory was that if you made everybody equal and paid them the same income, the riffraff would disappear. While most of the Russian workers, like those everywhere, did their best to cooperate, the shiftless minority would not.

WHY SHOULD THEY work themselves to death when they were getting the same salary as the industrious? As a result, the Bolsheviks had to throw theories out of the window, introduce the speed-up system, piece-work and severe penalties for sabotage and tardiness. All power was taken from the labor unions and the leaders took their orders from the government, or else.

America's coming welfare state to which the Truman administration is committed will have to use the same coercion to which totalitarian states elsewhere have had to resort, unless human nature changes more here than it has elsewhere.

This Was 'Strivers' Row'— Against a backdrop of the Great Hall of New York's City College these residences form what was once one of Harlem's most famous and legendary landmarks: "Strivers' Row," this is 139th Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. All houses are privately owned by their occupants. Here dwell some of the most substantial incomes in Negro Manhattan. In the "old days" everybody who was anybody sought to move into this once-fabulous street.

Harlem Isn't No. 1 Vice Pot

By GEORGE S. SCHUYLER, Associate Editor

(Third in a Series)

NEW YORK—With the exception of Chinatown, the Barbary Coast and the red light district of New Orleans, no American community in the past two generations has had a worse reputation than Harlem for vice and crime.

The belief is widespread that the community is a sink of iniquity where Satan rules over a noxious nether-world empire of juvenile delinquency, prostitution, crime, gambling, adultery and dope. The world has been told that immorality, broken families, unmarried mothers, irresponsible men and shameless girls befoul what was once a fair haven of virtuous and upstanding white people. This is simply another anti-Negro lie.

IT IS A lie because it is based on the false assumption that other comparable sections of New York also occupied largely by working people of modest income are morally superior, and this propaganda has been nurtured by racial designation of criminals in the daily press, by scare-heading of Negro crime and immorality by leading Negro newspaper pandering to depraved curiosity for the sake of circulation, and by both black and white people who variously profit from the perpetuation of this fiction.

It is a lie founded on the false assumption that any vast assemblage of Negroes must necessarily be criminal and immoral to a greater extent than a similar group of whites.

* * *

LET IT BE understood at the outset that in Harlem, as in any other urban community, there is crime. But there are no figures to prove that there is more crime in this Negro Harlem than in other areas of New York like the Lower East Side, the Lower West Side, Midtown East Side, the Southern Bronx and downtown Brooklyn. Efforts to get police statistics on crime precinct by precinct was impossible because they are not kept in that manner, nor are any figures kept by race or color officially.

Old residents of Harlem know that there was crime in the area long before the Negro "invasion," with gangs, juvenile and adult, "buffet flats," bordellos, street-walking and all sorts of gambling and dope-peddling. There is similar crime and immorality today. As in the past "The Wagon" rolls on Saturday night, the ambulances start off to the hospitals the usual number of stabbing and skull-cracking cases, and the magistrate [illegible] witness the usual motley Monday morning parade of offenders.

IN THE OPINION of many native New Yorkers like Clifford Alexander, director of the vast new Riverton Redevelopment Corporation, blatant and open prostitution has markedly declined in Harlem during the past thirty years, and he attributes this improvement to the better employment opportunities for colored women.

Following World War I and during the early days of the depression, street-walkers were rather plentiful in the bright light neighborhoods in Harlem, and so were the agencies and individuals who profited from their activities. A contributing factor was (and still is, but to a far less extent) the lack of economic opportunity for Negro women, and the large number of cabarets and "blind pigs" owned and operated by outside whites which drew numerous white men to Harlem on pleasure bent after dark.

With the closing of many of these places and the better law enforcement that followed the employment of more Negro police and the protests of the community, the area became more normal. Naturally there are still dives and dens in operation catering to those seeking them, but instead of hunting "trade" on the streets, most light ladies "work" the bars and grills on the late watch, as their kind has done since the days of Babylon, Corinth and Rome.

PAROLE COMMISSIONER Samuel J. Battle, who in 1911 was appointed the first Negro policeman in New York City, emphatically asserts that Harlem "is not a sink of iniquity," and is "not any worse than any other section." Certainly he ought to know if anybody does.

The Rev. John H. Johnson, pastor of St. Martin's Church and one of Harlem's most distinguished leaders, states categorically that there is "no open prostitution and no obvious soliciting. It has been curtailed to a minimum. Outward decency prevails in Harlem as in any other section of New York City. There has been a definite decline in vice over a period of twenty-five years."

If anyone craves narcotics, he can certainly get them in Harlem. Marijuana, of course, is most plentiful, but there is no mean quantity of cocaine, heroin, morphine and opium available for "the trade." If an addict knows the "right" people, there are several localities where they may be approached for purchase, notably around 126th Street and Eighth Avenue, 116th Street and Seventh Avenue and along West 145th Street, to name just a few. It is said that the last Harlem riot was precipitated by a Negro crazed with "geronimos" who cried up a mob at the first-mentioned location.

* * *

AS ELSEWHERE, THE use of narcotics is confined chiefly to underworld characters and the people in what is known as the entertainment field who feel that they must have a "kick." However, there are some others, generally regarded as respectable, who are not averse to "cracking a roach" or "kicking the gong around." It should be emphasized very strongly that the vast majority of Harlemites are as alien to such practices as the Eskimos, and they deplore the identification of such habits with Harlem.

The dope traffic is controlled by underworld cabals but Negroes play a very insignificant role in it, mostly as salesmen or agents. The big boys are white, and there seems to be a definite tie-in with people higher up who furnish "protection." Indeed, the crime barons of Harlem are mostly in "the other group."

* * *

GAMBLING IN HARLEM used to be confined mostly to orthodox American games such as craps, poker and race horses. After World War I, however, emphasis switched to "the numbers." Those who introduced the game were Cuban Negroes and for nearly a decade they ruled the roost. Big fortunes were made by several individuals and "numbers running" became one of the more lucrative sources of income. Many big "bankers" basked in the warmth of ill-gotten gains, bought big cars and purchased apartment houses. There was some dissatisfaction, however, because many "bankers" had a tendency to leave suddenly for Miami or Havana whenever they were "hit" hard. This led to several beatings and fatalities. It was sometimes difficult, too, to track down a "runner" if he failed to show up with the money.

All this was changed in the very early Thirties when white gangsters took over the numbers "in the rough." Stationery stores, cigar stores and lunch rooms were pressed into services as numbers "drops" instead of the "runners" and this innovation imparted a new stability to the business. Instead of using stock exchange figures, the gangsters used race track figures—and they controlled the race tracks.

* * *

OF COURSE, THIS would have been impossible to manage without the connivance of big politicians like Jimmy Hines "uncrowned Mayor of New York," whose flagrant activities in "protecting" the rackets landed him in Sing Sing Prison. Today the numbers racket has spread to all parts of Greater New York. Every so often there is a shift in police officials and talk of a big clean-up. Things get tight for a few days or weeks until new connections are established. Then everything goes on as before. But at no time in the past quarter-century has the game been completely stopped.

Admittedly there is considerable crime in Harlem. However, it is individual rather than organized and emotional rather than calculated, although there have been waves of muggings, burglary, purse-snatching and criminal assault, most often by delinquent juveniles. Improvement in housing conditions, more and better playgrounds, more recreational facilities and the efforts of the Coordinating Council composed of representatives of church, social and civic organizations to improve conditions for children in each precinct under supervision of the captain thereof have helped greatly to brighten the picture. Then there is the Juvenile Aid program under Capt. Emanuel Kline, a Negro, and the Police Athletic League working with youngsters from 7 to 17 which keeps the youths busy after school with clean sports programs.

NEVERTHELESS, IT IS a sad fact that there is a disproportionate number of Negroes in the city, county and State prisons, estimated to be about one-sixth of the total. What proportion comes from the Harlem district is not known. It is the usual picture to be found wherever there is a new urban population. During the days of heavy Italian and Jewish immigration the jails were filled with people of those groups, and before them it was the Irish.

The rapid growth of Negro population, limited economic opportunities and prejudice, coupled with broken homes and fluid social patterns have all conspired to disproportionately increase the Negro prison population. This deplorable condition has improved with better employment opportunities and will continue to improve, as has been the case with other groups in the city.

TWO MORE FACTORS should be mentioned — one bad and the other good. In all urban communities in the United States there are more females than males and this always alters the social pattern. But the excess of females over males in Negro Harlem is about the same as in neighboring white areas, according to the 1940 census. In the 15th, 16th, 17th and 23rd Assembly Districts, largely white, there were then 175,107 white males and 207,282 white females, while in the neighboring 11th, 13th, 19th and 21st Assembly Districts, largely Negro, there were 70,968 colored males and 100,338 colored females.

It is not a healthy condition, but it is characteristically urban. Anybody who regularly reads the sensational press knows that sexual conduct is about the same, regardless of color, class for creed. The big difference is that Negroes do not have the means to cover up their sexual delinquencies that white people do, and there are not the facilities available to aid them to the same extent when girls "get in trouble."

* * *

THE FACTOR BETTERING the situation has been the great increase in Negro officialdom, correctional and judicial, thanks to a more advantageous political situation due to the Negro vote, plus the gradual opening of many facilities which were once closed.

NOTE: New York's Harlem is the most maligned community in the United States. No other urban area has been lied about more viciously and consistently as poverty-stricken, overcrowded, crime-infested, thriftless, unenterprising, filthy, diseased and forgotten. Malicious or misguided agitators from without and within have minimized every virtue and magnified every vice. Forty years ago when the area's Negroes were largely concentrated between West 134th and 136th Streets and Seventh and Lenox Avenue, Harlem was regarded as symbolic of middle-class urban felicity. But today, when the same area is chiefly occupied by Negroes with a large minority of Puerto Ricans, Italians, others, it is represented as the nadir of slum-shocked degradation and despair. Hailed twenty years ago by Negroes as a city of refuge, it is now slurred, even by some of its spokesmen, as a city of refuse. Devoted by this sinister stereotype of this largest Negro community, The Pittsburgh Courier's associate editor, a 30-year resident, has written a series of articles telling the truth about Harlem. This is the third.—Editor.

The FHA Scandal

Pittsburg Courier

DESPITE THE decision of the United States Supreme Court illegalizing restrictive covenants which theoretically opened the doom of Negro ghettoes in this country, the Federal Housing Administration is doing everything in its power to perpetuate the vicious policy of residential segregation.

This is clearly brought out in a letter last week from Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, to President Truman, which accompanied a lengthy report on the jim-crow policies of the FHA recently completed by the association's special counsel, Thurgood Marshall.

The FHA has boldly stated that, Supreme Court or no Supreme Court, it will continue its present discriminatory policies.

The FHA has granted benefits to a veterans' housing project in which every tenant was required to sign an anti-Negro clause. Sat-2-13-45

The FHA has refused to grant mortgage insurance for unrestricted housing because of objections from Kluxish elements.

The FHA has aided and abetted traditional jim-crow real estate and financing discrimination resulting in overcrowding of the worst sort incident to the increase of Negro urbanization by two and one-half million since 1940, despite the fact that increased earning power of Negroes produced a greatly expanded market for medium- and low-priced housing.

The FHA has stood like a white-robed Horatius athwart the bridge to freedom of residence, battling with all its great power against increasing armies of Negroes seeking to escape from overcrowded, tuberculous, filthy, obsolescent, crime-ridden slave quarters.

From the elaborate and heavily documented indictment of this Administration agency by Mr. Marshall, the conclusion is justified that "the achievement of racial residential segregation is the purpose and the effect of the FHA's policy."

This being the established fact, The Pittsburgh Courier wholeheartedly supports the NAACP in this fight and calls upon President Truman to act immediately to bring the FHA agency in line with the democratic principles and policies he has espoused.

The Federal Housing Administration is one of the numerous Government agencies over which the President has full control and direction.

The President can exercise his full powers to end the FHA's jim-crow policies if he wishes to do so.

The President has spoken eloquently about civil rights, and his program along this line is supposedly aimed at guaranteeing them to every citizen, and in that connection he has defied a powerful faction of the Democratic party.

The President does not have to defy or fight anybody or faction in order to stop the jim-crow policies of the Federal Housing Administration because the bureaucrats who run it are under his thumb and cannot remain in their jobs an hour if he disapproves of them and their policies.

The President's action or lack of action in this instance will be a guage of his sincerity because he has full power to act without consulting either Congress or the courts. Sat-2-13-49

If the President can issue an executive order to end discrimination in the armed services and Federal departments (as he has done), what is preventing him from lifting his telephone and telling the FHA bureaucrats to fish exclusively in the waters of fair play or to cut bait?

While all of us are eager to see legislation which will curb denial of the vote, discrimination in employment and mob violence, the problem of increased housing to meet the needs of urban Negroes is far more pressing in our opinion.

Act now, Mr. President, to end this scandal within your Administration!

Some Pleased, Some Skeptical

Opinions Run Gamut On FHA Bias Order

Pittsburgh Courier

By LEM GRAVES Jr.
(Courier Washington Correspondent)

WASHINGTON—Mixed reactions greeted last week's announcement by the Federal Housing Administration to the effect that, henceforth, FHA underwriters will not consider the question of introducing different types of occupancy into neighborhoods in granting loan insurance.

These reactions ranged from "a Frank Horne and Booker T. step in the right direction" to "a McGraw, racial relations consult- secret and vague memorandum ants in the Housing and Home which is an effective policy Finance Agency, last week made change. Oct. 3-5-49 the following statement with re-

A majority of those who have gard to the order:

expressed a long-time interest in "We would consider the new instructions is the racially discriminatory under- sued by the FHA to all field offices writing policies of the FHA sub- last week . . . a definite forward scribe to the "step in the right step in the direction of equalizing direction" opinion. The NAACP the opportunities for minorities to last week took the position that bargain for decent housing in an the FHA order was "not an effec- unrestricted market. The new tive policy change."

The prevailing view appears to statement of policy reflects the be that: FHA has made another apparent intent of FHA to bring move to change its policies; that its operations into line with the this move is not as strong, as advanced status of Negroes and positive, or as affirmative as it other racial minorities as owners hould be, that this new order and renters of real property and ails to come to grips with every as sound credit risks.

spect of the housing discrimina- NAACP BRIEF

ion problem; that its effectiveness At the other end of the reaction largely depends on strong admin- scale is the opinion of Thurgood istrative action and safeguards, Marshall, NAACP legal chief who nd that, finally, the agency must prepared an extensive brief pro- e carefully policed to see that testing FHA policy of restricting he order is put into effect at the Negroes. This brief was submitted to President me and regional level. Truman about one week before the FHA announced its revised

policy.

Mr. Marsh
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Marshall, who charged that FHA underwriters are instructed er is "not an effective policy to cease considering the effect of ." took the position that the change of occupancy or other memorandum is not "an racial factors upon the market tive, positive declaration." value of surrounding properties. NAACP, Mr. Marshall as- This device had been used to deny will continue to demand that Negroes loan insurance for propcease to insure mortgages erty in certain areas even after perty in which the applicant the FHA claimed that restrictive surance has newly inserted covenants were no longer a conive covenants." He also sideration in their underwriting nat FHA attach a condition conditions.

insurance guarantees to the COMMISSIONER RESPONDS that the imposition of a FHA Commissioner Franklin nt after insurance is granted Richards, who issued the new orrfeit the contract between der, gave the following answerspplicant and FHA. most of which were unsatisfactory to the NAACP and other interested PROPERTIES groups—to The Courier last Fri-Marshall said he was very day:

not to ask FHA to refuse 1. Mr. Richards said FHA has ges on property where there no contractual relation with the ld and established racial mortgagor and has no control over nts." He said: "Our sugges- the person who borrows the money . . would, if adopted, elim- Consequently, he said, they cannot restrictive covenants which prevent the borrower from insertbe placed on newly devel- ing covenant restrictions after he roperty." He added that had secured the loan insurance. ould bring FHA policy in . In refutation of this, local obth Federal policy. servers point out that FHA does Marshall charged that FHA have contractual relations with the riters have been operating lender and that every other conlong under the theory that ceivable condition deemed to have differences were sufficient any bearing on the proposition is s upon which to deny ap- inserted in such a contract. ns of Negroes for property Since FHA uses Federal funds, districts, that a memoran- it is argued, it has an obligation not sufficient to break up to see that neither the lenders nor olicy. He pointed out that the borrowers operate in a manner d "Negro" is not used any- contrary to Federal policy. They n the FHA memorandum. express the view that FHA could abrogate its contract unless its conditions on occupancy were honored.

This, in turn, would place upon the lenders—bankers, building and loan associations, etc.—an obligation to make such a contract with the borrower whereupon the prop

erty could be seized in case of insertion of covenants just as it could be seized in case of any other defaults.

2. Mr. Richards said that review machinery is available to all citizens who are dissatisfied with any relationship with FHA and he invited all complainants who failed to get satisfaction at the area or field level to direct complaints to his office where, he said, they will get immediate attention. Some observers believe that additional field racial relations personnel as well as a home office coordinator should be set up to affirmatively follow through on the new policy, set in motion informational services and take positive steps to guard against any violations of the spirit of the order.

3. Mr. Richards said FHA has not refused to underwrite mixed-occupancy projects, cooperative or otherwise. He states that one such project, Bel-Air in New York, was recently approved and that this is the first one to come to his attention.

Those who have followed FHA operations contend that such projects have been often discouraged at the local level before they got in application form and that certain field offices have refused to appraise or consider such projects. They contend that FHA's previously discriminatory policy was so widely popularized that something definite must be done to correct that attitude in the field.

4. Mr. Richards again says that he has no control over mortgagers but others argue that FHA has influence and power over the entire housing field and is responsible for perpetuating racial segregation in housing. It is the belief of these observers that FHA could control this matter of racial covenants as easily as it could control the maintenance standards of property it insures.

The FHA commissioner expressed some disappointment that NAACP officials had never conferred with him and "did not do me the courtesy of sending me a copy of the statement they went over my head to file with the President." He asserted, however, that he would welcome conferences with NAACP officials and any others interested in this matter and would appreciate suggestions on implementation of the new order.

Meanwhile, Raymond Foley, overall Federal Housing Administrator, told The Courier that he approved entirely of the new order but that he was unable to say whether or not it would be adopted by other Federal departments which have some connection with housing.

Anti-Segregation Rider

The Post. Thu. 5-26-

I know from Mr. Hodding Carter's articles in your issue of May 8 that he could not have been present in the Senate at the debate on the Federal housing bill. Needless to say while minorities welcome his friendship we are not looking for appeasers of injustice nor apologists for the "hallelujah" liberals. 46 5-26-46

Senator Douglas was first elected to public office as an alderman for a ward in Chicago which had a 40 per cent colored population. He became known at that time as a great liberal because of his supposedly sincere and outspoken friendship for minorities. In the November election Douglas received 160,000 votes in the colored districts of Illinois. The Post

It is natural for minorities to expect him never to raise his voice against legislation for the improvement of their rights, especially when he claimed to favor the very legislation which he spoke and voted against.

To imply, as Mr. Carter did, that Douglas was the only Northern Senator who spoke against the Bricker amendment is carrying attempted heroics a little too far. The record shows that Senators Kilgore, Humphrey and Taylor spoke against it, and that Senator Myers read an editorial against into the record. Thus.

Usually amendments are added to bills when some injustice is being created, a constitutional right voided, or for some such reason. The only way to avoid these miscarriages of justice in a bill is to amend it on the floor. The Bricker amendment was an attempt to eliminate segregation and discrimination from all Federally supported housing projects.. This certainly conforms to true democratic principles.

D.C. C. K. BROWN, JR.
Washington. Washington

Washington Notebook . . .

By LEM GRAVES JR.

(Courier's Washington Correspondent)

Graves Comes Up With the Lowdown

WASHINGTON—If the "liberal" Democrats thought they might get away clean with the tactical maneuvering they did in an effort to get out of the trap laid for them by the Bricker amendment to the housing bill, they underestimated the Republicans in general and Val Washington, GOP committee assistant chairman, in particular.

Lem Graves Jr.

Dormant since last November, the GOP National Committee oiled up its big guns and cut loose with a broadside this week. In a press release, the GOP charged that the "Truman Democrats, aided by their Southern colleagues and Negro 'Charlie McCarthys' " conspired to defeat the Bricker anti-segregation amendment in order to preserve for the Democratic party "a monopoly on demagogy where civil rights are concerned."

The GOP release said that Democratic fears that passage of the Bricker amendment would have caused defeat in the housing fight were fallacious because, even conceding the loss of all Southern and borderline Democratic votes, the twenty-four Northern Democrats and the twenty-five Republicans who supported the housing bill would have given the bill forty-nine "aye" votes, which would be enough for passage.

Coming in for especially rough treatment at the hands of the GOP and Mr. Washington are Senators Humphrey, Douglas and Taylor, who are supposed to be great spokesmen for civil rights. Illinois' Senator Douglas gets tabbed as a "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and, thanks to Senator Douglas' somewhat wishy-washy Senate arguments, is referred to as "I am for but . . . " Douglas.

By some unexplained oversight, the Republicans omitted any reference to the part the great liberal GOP Senator Wayne Morse had in debating against the Bricker amendment.

The GOP laid its heaviest barrage against what it calls the Negro "Charley McCarthys." Priority on this list went to Mrs. Mary M. Bethune and the Chicago Defender. The release mentions in passing that neither Senator Scott Lucas, majority leader, or Senator Howard McGrath, Democratic National Committee chairman, were on hand for the roll call.

* * *

Will Haunt Dems in 1950-'52 Elections

At about the same time Washington issued this release, another GOP friend, Ohio's Chester K. Gillespie, said it "ain't" so to this column's label of Ohio's Senator Bricker as a "phony shyster" on civil rights. Mr. Gillespie cites things Bricker did while Governor of Ohio, including the removal of pictures from civil service applications, appointment of Negro Judge Perry B. Jackson to the Cleveland Municipal Court, increase of the appropriation for Wilberforce and establishment of the first State FEPC system. (In Ohio, Bricker may be okay but in the Senate his record is bad.) Mr. Gillespie, a former State legislator, also says the Democrats "are not sincere" about civil rights.

These attacks will rise to haunt the Democrats in the 1950 and 1952 elections just as Eightieth Congress failings of the Republicans hurt them. It still looks like political talk on civil rights is about all we will get. Everybody can figure out ways to put the blame on the political opposition but nobody has figured out how to get a bill passed.

Housing

TRUMAN HOUSING BILL COMPLETED

Quick Action Promised by Federal Director

(By The Associated Press)

Washington, July 8 — Congress approved Friday the administration's gigantic housing bill—a nationwide project designed to help provide better homes for "millions of families." It awaits President Truman's signature.

House and Senate rapidly passed the legislation by voice vote after compromising their differences.

The government has promised quick action once the bill is signed. The federal housing administrator, Raymond M. Foley, has scheduled a "rapid start" on the bill's low-rent public housing feature. He wants to get 50,000 units under way within 12 months.

Final passage gave President Truman the first major victory for his domestic program in this Congress. The bill had the strong support of Republicans in the Senate, which had approved similar legislation in 1946 and 1948 only to see it die in the House.

810,000 Housing Units

The bill, estimated to cost from $10,000,000,000 upward over a period of decades, provides for 810,000 public housing units. These would be available to low income families by aid of government rent subsidies. It calls for a vast slum clearance program, help in farm housing, and research to work out cheaper ways to build houses.

While planning fast action on the low-rent, federally subsidized public housing units, Foley said that the slum clearance feature of the bill would take more time. It means extensive local planning, organization and perhaps legislation by cities or states.

Foley noted, however, that 24 states have laws which allow participation in slum clearance projects backed by the government. Some large cities may get their programs within a year, he said, so that "actual slum clearance can get under way thereafter."

The legislation authorizes:

1 Federal contributions up to $308,000,000 annually for 40 years to subsidize rents of low income families, thus enabling local housing authorities to build 810,000 housing units in the next six years. Local authorities would select the tenants and set the rents. The federal aid would make up the difference between what the occupants can pay and what the projects cost.

Slum Clearance

2. A five-year slum clearance plan, the government paying a third and local communities the rest. It calls for $1,000,000,000 in loans and $500,000,000 in grants to fulfill the objectives.

3. A farm housing program of loans to owners of self-sustaining farms unable to get loans elsewhere; loans and federal aids to owners whose farms are not at the time self-sustaining, and loans for minor improvements where farms cannot be made self-sustaining.

4. An extension of 60 days of temporary government authority to insure private loans up to $2500 for repairing and remodeling; a similar extension of mortgage insurance for small homes costing up to $5000, and a $500,000,000 increase in the amount of mortgage insurance the government can issue for single family and multiple dwelling projects.

5. A research program for cutting building costs.

FEDERAL HOUSING BILL PASSES HOUSE MINUS ANTI-BIAS CLAUSE

Powell and Dawson Split Over Anti-Bias Proposal of Pennsylvanian

ROOSEVELT VOTES WITH REGULAR DEMOCRATS

(By Alice A. Dunnigan)

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — The federal housing bill passed the House last Wednesday by a vote of 228 to 185, and was sent into conferences to iron out the slight differences between the House and Senate measures.

The bill passed without the anti-segregation amendment which was introduced from the floor by Rep. James G. Fulton (R., Pa.) on Tuesday.

The two Negro Congressmen were divided in their opinion of such an amendment. Cong. William L. Dawson (D., Ill.) was one of the 168 who opposed such amendment while Cong. Adam C. Powell (D., N. Y.) was among the 130 who favored it.

Mr. Fulton's amendment stated that "There shall be no discrimination against any person because of race, color, religion or national origin in the rental or occupancy of any housing constructed under the provisions of this act."

In introducing this amendment Mr. Fulton declared that the amendment was intended only to make this that the people who are put out of any housing constructed under the provisions of this act."

In introducing this amendment —housing, with no discrimination. He could not understand, he continued, why the Democratic party stands for. "Here is your chance to get both the principles of Democracy and the Democratic party stands for. An amendment offered earlier (R., Mass.) complimented Cong. Adam C. Powell was Powell on his fine statement saying that the Democrats took the position such an amendment attached order against the Powell amendment, the New York congressman expressed by Rep. Charles B. amendment. It simply says that declared that the amendment development is built to replace it, real American housing act. will have the first chance to move as surprised, he said, to hear in the housing project when it is crats make such an "intimi- completed.

When Rep. Brent Spence (D., Ky.) rose to make a point of the housing bill would mean that Roosevelt asked while young Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr., voted along with displaced there from because of majority of the Democrats to clearance and redevelopment activity, who desire to live in such dwelling units and who will be able to pay rents or prices charged other families for comparable dwelling units built as part of the same redevelopment."

ing that he agreed with him. Mr. Spence then withdrew his objection and the amendment was passed.

Also defeated were two other proposals, one for censuring of public projects by local authorities, and the other making the program non-existent as long as the federal deficit in the budget exists.

The first item, introduced by Rep. Bennett of Florida would give local housing authorities the right to hold hearings before a public project could be built.

The second one was introduced by Rep. (R. Kan.). It would allow no federal housing program unless the deficit in the federal budget did not exist.

Except for a few minor differences that must be taken care of the bill as the joint house-senate committee look it over calls for:

1. Federal contributions up to $308,000,000 a year for 40 years toward the construction of 810,000 public housing unit at a low cost rent.

2. Five year slum clearance program with the federal government providing one third of the cost and the local units the other two thirds.

3. A $265,000,000 farm housing program especially for loans to farmers who cannot get credit elsewhere.

Planning Better Housing for Farm Folks

Ohio American 7-30-49 Baltimore, Md

Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan with his two special assistants, Claude A. Barnett, (left), and Dr. F. D. Patterson, (rihgt). Under the new Housing Act, the U. S. Department of Agriculture will launch a rural housing program.

Farm Advisors Make Rural Housing Plea

Ohio American

WASHINGTON (ANP) — Full participation by colored farmers in the rural housing program under the new Federal housing Act was demanded by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, and Claude A. Barnett, Chicago, in conference last week with rural housing administration officials.

Both men, who are special assistants to the Secretary of Agriculture, were assured that full attention would be given to protecting the rights of minority groups in the housing system.

Secretary of Agriculture Brannan suggested that special funds be earmarked to assure equitable provision in the program for colored farmers in the South, and for inclusion of technically trained colored personnel in administrative, technical, and supervisory relationships.

House Kills Racial Issue In Housing Bill

The News Birmingham Ala.

WASHINGTON, June 28—(AP)—The House defeated, 168 to 130 today an attempt to add an anti-race discrimination amendment to President Truman's housing bill.

Offered by Rep. Fulton (R., Pa.) the amendment read:

"There shall be no discrimination against any person because of race, color, religion or national origin in the rental or occupancy of any housing constructed under the provisions of this act."

Most administration Democrats opposed the amendment after Rep. Spence (D., Ky.) said it would probably lead to killing the bill.

46a 1949

Housing(Alabama)

A.C.Bulls-Subdivision
Simmons Garden Apartments, Inc.

Tuskegee Plans Negro Project

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Oct. 20—Construction of a 60-unit FHA rental project here is under way. Each unit will consist of six apartments.

The project is being built in the A. C. Bulls subdivision adjacent to Carver Court. It will be known as Simmons Garden Apartments, Inc.

It will be the first of its type to be built in Alabama and probably the first in the entire country for Negroes.

The buildings will be brick veneer with asbestos siding.

Mac D. Saxon of Montgomery is the contractor. A. G. Bulls and Sons and George S. Bulls are the sponsors.

The architect's conception of one of the units was published in The Advertiser Thursday, but the location was inadvertently omitted.

Negro Dwelling Permit Is Issued

Birmingham News

Action Follows Order By U. S. Court Here

Under orders of U. S. District Court, Building Inspector H. Edgar Hagood today issued a permit for construction of a Negro apartment house in the Wahouma area.

The permit had been issued once before but the building inspector had canceled it, plaintiffs in the case charged.

* * *

FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGE Seybourn H. Lynne yesterday issued an injunction enjoining the city from interfering with the building of the apartment. He said he was not entering into the legality of the zoning laws of the city in the decree. But he called the action of thecity 'confiscation of the land" and a violation of property rights.

Wed. 4-27-49

The city had adopted an ordinance prohibiting the building of a Negro house in a light industrial district within 300 feet of an A-1 residential district. The city had zoned the area in dispute as a light industrial district.

The ordinance also prohibited the building a white house within 300 feet of a B-2 residential district.

The project for which the permit had been issued is called Kentucky Gardens Apartment, Inc. The location for it is in the area between the west side of 65th Street and the Mineral branch of the L. & N. Railroad, between Third Avenue, South, and Kentucky Avenue.

* * *

THE PLAINTIFFS had purchased a 100-foot strip within the 300-foot area, it was shown. They had made the purchase and completed plans for the project before the city rezoned the area.

Commissioner James W. Morgan explained today that the object of the ordinance was "to serve as a buffer line."

City officials were enjoined from interferring with the construction "as long as it complies with applicable laws of the city."

The question of appeal is "a matter that will be considered later,' it was explained by City Atty James H. Ellis. He pointed out that a study of the court ruling will be made first.

Named as defendants in the case were Mayor Cooper Green and Commissioners James Morgan and Eugene Connor, Robert L. Pollard, Louis B. Mackin and George E. Bynum, members of the City Zoning Adjustment Board, and Building Inspector Hagood.

Court Upholds Negro Housing

Montgomery Adv.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., April 26 (AP)—A federal district court today barred the city of Birmingham from interfering with construction of a Negro apartment project in an area zoned for light industry.

Judge Seybourn H. Lynne issued the injunction against the city and directed that a building permit be reinstated.

The injunction was asked by the Kentucky Garden Apartments, Inc., Birmingham, which plans to build the project on the east side.

Mob. 4-27-49

A permit was granted by the city but later cancelled.

Judge Lynne said his decision did not go into legality of the city zoning laws. He said he granted the injunction because of what he described as a violation of property rights.

Bias Housing Bill Killed

MONTGOMERY, Ala.— A bill to make residential segregation state-wide died in the Alabama legislature Wednesday when the Senate wiped its slate clean of all pending legislation not yet acted upon.

Scheduled to come up for consideration before the adjournment, was the Jim Crow proposal of Senator C. J. Stevens of Marshall county. The bill would require segregation of whites and Negroes in residential areas.

Urged on the legislature by Commissioner Eugene Connor of Birmingham, the proposal would provide a fine or imprisonment for violators. Connor came here several weeks ago seeking statewide support for his city's recently adopted ordinance setting up separate neighborhoods for white and colored.

The Negro Housing Project Merits Approval

THE NEGRO housing project off Fairview Avenue should be approved by the City Planning Commission.

Evidence presented at the hearing Friday punctured the case against it.

Mr. Robert Upchurch, who owns white property in the vicinity of the proposed 464 low-cost houses for Negroes and acted as spokesman for the opposition, had rested much of his case on inadequate sewage disposal.

It was contended that the addition of these houses would overload the sewer and create a health menace. But the city engineer testifies that this is not so. In fact, the engineer testified, the outfall sewer could withstand an increased burden of 3,000.

This could not, however, be a problem in any case inasmuch as the builders are willing to build such additional sewers as may be necessary.

Mr. Upchurch contended that the site was not, contrary to our earlier assertion, zoned for Negro settlement. But as our news story said yesterday:

> Attorneys for the builders read sections of the city zoning ordinance which suggested the specific site of the proposed project for future construction of Negro housing.
>
> W. B. Paterson, speaking as a member of the Board of Education, said that when the board purchased the ground on which the George Washington Carver School now stands, the assumption was that the whole area would be predominantly Negro.

Mr. Upchurch had solicitously observed that Negro children would have to trek a mile and a half to reach an elementary school. That objection likewise fell on its face, for Mr. Paterson testified that the board is holding 43 acres there on which it is going to erect elementary and trade schools.

It is difficult to see, in the face of this testimony, how the Planning Commission can do other than grant approval. It's a Negro-destined site with adequate schools and sewers. What reasons could be given for disapproval?

Rankin File

Montgomery, Ala.

Slums: Montgomery Has Some Prize Ones

Montgomery Advertiser

By Allen Rankin

Daily In The Alabama Journal

FOR a long time Montgomery has looked the other way and winked. Now, in recent months, it is beginning to face up to its nastiest problem—disease-pregnant slum areas.

Sun. 6-19-49

Slowly, it is focusing a less than approving gaze on shack settlements where roofs sag precariously and floors tilt at angles; where toilet facilities in the modern sense are unheard of; where the shine of green flies zooming over the filth is standard household decoration.

Much of the problem comes from Negro houses owned by white landlords. The 1940 census showed that of 15,088 Negro houses here, 7,798 needed major repairs; 6,723 had no running water, and 10,777 had no electric lighting.

A recent check by the Health Department reveals that about 800 residences, white and Negro, still have the old can-type privies that were new in the days of Camp Sheridan, 1917. About 547 "residences" have no toilet facilities, whatever.

This situation did not come about in a day and it cannot be remedied in a day. As was slavery, the practice of renting cheap, unsanitary and unlivable property for cheap prices to Negroes, is a system.

For most landlords to get by with a minimum of "improvements" and a maximum of shoddiness has been the unwritten but necessary slogan of the "Negro property" business. Do it any other way and the property becomes a white elephant instead of a sound investment.

And, landlords have argued with some logic, what else can the renter paying $4 to $9 a month "a side" (two rooms in a Negro "duplex") expect at the price? And where else would thousands of these people live if they did not have such places to rent? Where would they go if they were turned out of them? And how now can landlords in these high-cost times be expected to furnish sanitary facilities worth more than the shacks themselves?

The landlords of the slum and green-fly areas have arguments that must be listened to.

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Yet, The Stench Exists

Yet, city officials backed by public opinion are beginning to move in. With new laws with teeth in them (the new sanitary code and the "uninhabitable house law") they are beginning gently to gnaw at the old slum-perpetuating system.

Many houses could be condemned by any one of several departments. The Engineering Department could declare them dangerous; the Safety Department could call them unsafe; the Fire Department could pronounce them fire hazards; the Sanitary Department could vacate them as unsanitary.

Yet, rightfully, no drastic action is being taken. So far, Dr. A. H. Graham's County Health Department is bearing the brunt of the reform, and even it is moving with caution.

In brief, the new reform movement strives at nothing so ambitious as to stop the perpetuation of human misery—or even the exploitation of it for money.

It does propose to eliminate the most flagrant violations of the Sanitary Code. It proposes to clean up the most obviously filthy of the disease nests, ripe for typhoid and dysentery.

In this conservative effort Dr. Graham has had the backing of the city. He has even had the cooperation of most landlords, who, if unable to meet sanitary specifications, have readily vacated their houses at Health Department orders.

So far, some 50 houses have been posted with "Vacate" notices since last Fall.

Sun 6-19-49

The Health Department is attacking on two fronts. In an organized way it is moving to eliminate worst things first. On this drive, the eradication of a belt of can privies stretching from North Montgomery to the State Teacher's College in the heart of town, comes first.

Meanwhile, on the second, more erratic front, Graham is taking action on those situations bad enough to arise as public nuisances.

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A Tour Of Filth

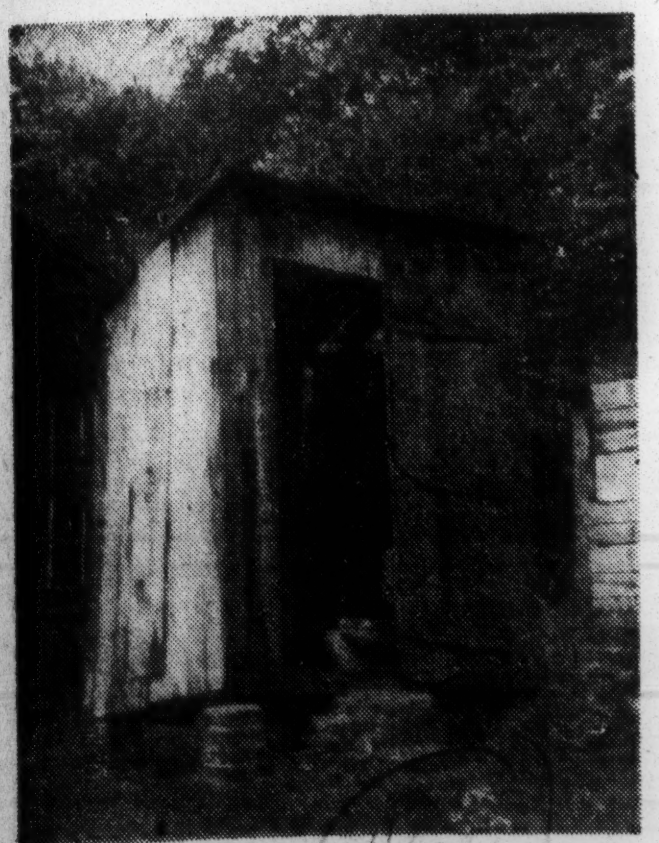
With Graham I toured the city this week to view some conditions which, he said, had been made conspicuous to him by continued nuisance complaints.

At an ancient two-story house at 718 Columbus Street, owned by Warren Reese, Jr., 18 Negro renters were without any toilet facilities whatever.

Reese was fined $5 and costs in city court on June 3 for violating the sanitary code at this residence. When he failed to remedy the situation caused by faulty plumbing — he was cited again this week.

Now, when we saw the place Wednesday, he had installed one commode in the sloping room but had not yet put it in working order.

The water here had been cut off for a long time because a broken pipe had run the water bill up too high for them to pay. Graham's description of the place as "completely unsanitary and filthy" was conservative.



This one "yard toilet" serviced seven Negro "duplexes"—before it broke, and the Health Department forced property renters to vacate the area.

Graham said owners of this neighborhood had petitioned for sanitary sewers and had been turned down because the cost of the sewers — about $30,000 — would be greater than the total value of the settlement. To impose such an "improvement" on the landlords here, he said, would amount to confiscation of property.

The Tax Assessor's Office listed some of the owners of this tract as Fred Whiting Grace W. Thomas, Evelyn S. Britton, G. B. Thomas, L. A. Sanderson and T. R. Sanderson. Records showed the McIntyre estate owned a section of similar property on the south.

Already vacated by Graham was a section of houses on Columbus Street owned by the Stringfellow estate, now in litigation. Here, Graham said, seven Negro "duplexes" had been serviced by one outdoor community toilet that did not work

Also long-vacated by the city were 12 houses on North Decatur owned by Meyer Griel, Graham said. The porches had slumped. The roofs had collapsed on others. Now they were ghost houses with white "Vacate" notices yellowing on the doors.

•

Negroes Own 'Cheap Property,' Too

White men have not been the only benefactors of this "cheap" rental system here. Graham showed me the business venture of a Negro he named as Jasper Daniels. The house of Daniels—a Tuskegee graduate Graham said, stood white and comparatively oppulent at 150 Franklin St. But on this one narrow 50x180 foot lot there were jammed behind the white-house 10 dark and shoddy dwellings, rented out to his own race by the property owner.

Graham said these cow-pen-like shacks were built without a permit in the first place, and were rebuilt without a permit when some of them burned down.

The charge against Warren Reese, Jr., for violating the City Sanitary Code at a Columbus Street Negro rental dwelling was nolle prossed Friday by City Recorder John B. Scott on recommendation of County Health Officer Dr. A. H. Graham. Graham said Reese had let a contract to install necessary plumbing to provide toilet facilities for the 18 Negroes living in the dwelling.

At 50 South Goldthwaite St. we saw 23 white renters living in an antebellum house, and its surroundings and quarters, owned by Jacob Leibovici. Two dark and dirty toilets accomodated all renters. The place is built like a moat and when it rains water pours down into the basement halls and stands in fetid pools. One woman told me her rent for a two-room "apartment" here was $22.50 a month. Another said, "Tell him about the fleas."

Graham said:

"I'd hate to tell you how many nuisance calls we've had on this place. Everything has been out here to see it but the Ku Klux Klan."

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This One Was 'A Lemon'

At Maul's Lane off High St. we saw what Graham called a "lemon of a situation." Here in the middle of a city block, whose outer square was paved and piped for sewage, lodged a shambles of 36 Negro shacks adorned by 36 privies and an open sewer running through the whole thing.

The Health Department said its most "drastic" action to date has been to order the evacuation of 18 Negro houses between Martha and Clayton Streets. Here three yard toilets, all broken and unworkable, failed to accommodate the 18 houses.

This tract posed another problem, that of absentee ownership. Owners were listed as Mrs. Lucille Pearce Adams and Mrs. Emily Pearce Dunlap, of Gainesville, Ga.

The foregoing places are merely typical of many slum areas. They are listed to point up the gravity of the cleanup problem which faces their owners and the city.

Negro Housing Plan Protested

A number of veterans living in the Veterans Court area on the Mobile Road met last night to protest the construction of 464 Negro houses in an area behind the court.

The meeting was called after an application for a plat was submitted to the city planning commission last week to permit the Negro housing project. Folmar and Flinn, builders of Cloverland are the prospective builders.

If permitted, the houses will be constructed in an area behind the St. Frances Tourist Courts, The Veterans Court, Doby's Tourist Court and other white businesses in the vicinity.

Sam Rice Baker, local attorney, has been retained by some 15 interested parties in the neighborhood to fight the project. He asked the city planning commission to deny the project in the interest of public safety.

Said Baker: "These men (veterans living in the court area) have been taught to fight and they will fight if this development is allowed. There will be trouble, and plenty of it. The city will be forced to add extra police protection, if these Negro houses are permitted."

property, could not be present. The hearing was postponed until tomorrow at 3 p.m. at his request.

The commission also delayed action on a 22 house Negro project on Belview. About 30 white property owners from the vicinity told the commission yesterday that the project, if continued, will depreciate the value of their homes by as much as 60 per cent.

Work Begun

The project, being constructed by Jack Riley, is already under way. Preliminary grading has been done and other preparatory work.

Attorneys John and Virgil McGee and Eugene Bailey represented the property owners who are opposing the Riley project. They asked the commission to stop the project by any means, even if it requires the passage of an ordinance against it.

John McGee said that Birmingham, by its recently enacted zoning ordinance, has taken a positive step "to preserve one of the most sacred Southern traditions—segregation."

"We don't care how you stop it," the attorneys said, "but stop it. If you want to you can, some way."

Negro Housing Unit Decision Due Tomorrow

Protestants Ask New Law If It's Needed To Ban Construction

By WILLIAM McDONALD

The City Planning Commission yesterday deferred until tomorrow final action on two controversial Negro housing projects which have been proposed.

One is the 464 unit Folmar and Flinn project, which has been proposed for an area South of Fairview Avenue and behind the Veterans Court.

Sam Rice Baker, attorney for about 25 owners of surrounding

Tell It To Old Grandma

Letters to the editor must carry complete name and street address of the writer, though pen names may be used at the editor's discretion. Letters of less than 200 words are given preference All letters may be cut.

The Negro Housing Project—By Mr. Upchurch

EDITOR, THE ADVERTISER—At the time I first contacted you regarding the absolute lack of any publicity regarding the proposed subdivision and housing project south of Fairview Avenue and east of the Mobile Highway, you made the statement that you did not consider the matter as of editorial consideration and turned the cover to Mr. Mahan. (News department)

It seemed to me that Mr. Mahan did a creditable job inasmuch as he did seem to go so far as to find out something regarding the other side of the matter before coming out in the paper.

However, since it seems that we are treading on some of Mr. Allen Rankin's friends' toes and he came out with an article that is palpably propaganda, you have changed your mind as to what constitutes editorial matter.

The people in Ridgecrest, on Cleveland Road, Fairview Avenue and the Mobile Highway, very much resent the stand that you have taken, without any more investigation than your implication that Mr. Rankin has made an investigation.

Mr. Rankin's investigation as shown by his article shows from beginning to end that it is propaganda for friends, which he refers to as Billy and Jimmy.

He says that the city's right hand behaved suspiciously as if it didn't know what it's left was doing, and then referred to the fact that the City Housing Authority had applied to the government for a loan to "investigate slum clearance" here. On the other hand he says that the City Planning Commission had turned down cold two sets of Montgomery contractors "who were ready to do something about slum clearance right now—not with the taxpayer's money but their own."

LATER IN his article he says that if his friends are not allowed to go ahead "40 acres or so is good for nothing but a good cow pasture." Now, I ask you how can this project at once and the same time be a "slum clearance" and if not built on "good for nothing but a cow pasture."

Furthermore, his argument as to the cow pasture is a fallacy, and is not borne out by the facts. If he will refer to the Chamber of Commerce he will find that industrial sites such as this can hardly be found in Montgomery today.

Mr. Rankin refers to the houses proposed as "affordable" as they are to be "two-bedroom, fully modern homes to sell for $5,000 each, WITHOUT DOWN PAYMENT." They are, according to him, to be sold for the "affordable" sum of $1 a day. Evidently Mr. Rankin does not know of such items as interest, taxes, upkeep, insurance and the like. It is my personal thought that if any of these houses are sold for the amount named and on the terms he mentions, that the buyers will not live long enough to own the property without encumbrance, and also I doubt that if they do happen to live that long the houses will last until they are paid for.

In making the statement that "both projects were to be built in the Negro Neighborhood "behind Carver Negro High School and across the Mobile Road from St. Jude's." We do not know whether this is simply through pure ignorance, or a desire to misinform. The particular projects which he mentions are: one behind the Carver High School and the other on the other side of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

His statement that "both projects were to be built in an area clearly zoned in the Planning Commission's master recreation plan as "a potential Negro neighborhood." Again Mr. Rankin either displays his ignorance, or his desire to mislead his readers. Mr. Hill, the chairman of the Planning Commission, Mayor John Goodwyn and Mr. Francis, the representative of the State Planning Board, have carefully explained at EACH hearing that I have attended, that "it is impossible to zone for either one race or the other," and therefore we take it that if you cannot zone for the white race, neither could you zone for the Negro race.

UNDER the heading "The Excuses They Used," Mr. Rankin says that one of them was that the sewer line serving the area MIGHT become overloaded. It is very evident from this that Mr. Rankin was not at the meeting, and has no conception of the problem involved. Neither Dr. Graham, nor Mr. Scott Crump, an engineer who also testified, left any doubt in the minds of anyone who was present, but that this sewer line was ALREADY overloaded. Dr. Graham said that it would "not take **any more.**" He stated again that this sewer in his opinion already constituted a distinct health hazard to the City of Montgomery.

Mr. Rankin does not bring out at all in his article the testimony regarding Catoma Creek into which this sewer empties. The testimony regarding this was that at certain periods of time there was insufficient flow of water in this creek to take off the sewage matter that was being dumped into the creek.

He makes the further statement that, "Oddly, they listed lack of any nearby school facilities as an objection." It was clearly made plain that the city did not have any ELEMENTARY school nearby. The very nearest point on Fairview Avenue, to the nearest elementary school provided by the Montgomery Board of Education was measured and it was nearly 1 1-2 miles.

Mr. Rankin says, "Yet Ridegcrest denounced the high-grade residences proposed 'a menace to the health of that entire section of Montgomery.' He could not be any more mistaken. The writer is the one who made the statement "menace to the health of that entire section," but the statement was made with regard to the fact that the sewage being dumped into Catoma Creek was the menace.

HIS STATEMENT regarding increased police and fire protection is most ambiguous. He says, "Will the areas built on borrowed money" from the government require more fire and police protection when they replace slums. If he is talking about money the city is thinking of borrowing for the Housing Authority, then our answer is no. If he is thinking of the projects which we have protested, then our answer is yes. If he does not think so, then we suggest that he talk with our chief of police and also our sheriff.

Mr. Rankin refers to the $3,400,000 as being the money of the friends that he is writing for. We do not want to doubt his word, or the value possessed by them, but our feeling is that if they actually have that money they would not be investing it in such projects as they propose. It is our belief that the money he refers to is coming from the very same place that practically all money being invested in projects of this kind is coming from, namely the government, on which he has already cast aspersion earlier in his article.

PROTESTANTS OF RIDGECREST, FAIRVIEW, CLEVELAND AND MOBILE ROAD.
By: ROBERT UPCHURCH.
Montgomery

That Letter Over There

An uncommon amount of space has been let to Robert Upchurch in the Grandma column to answer The Advertiser's recent editorial on the proposed Negro housing project off Fairview Avenue.

This uncommon amount of space is apportioned in deference to the fact that Mr. Upchurch evidently is spokesman for a considerable number of white residents in the vicinity, including Mr. Upchurch.

The hearing on this project will be resumed today and we will not deal extensively with the complex question at this time.

Nevertheless, Mr. Upchurch is flying at right angles to the beam on several points in his letter:

1. Mr. Upchurch appeared in the editor's office with a request that some publicity be given the controversy. Whereupon Mr. Upchurch was escorted to the news room, wherein a news article was written—based entirely on his testimony. He left beaming.

2. Mr. Upchurch says in his letter that Columnist Allen Rankin's subsequent piece was "propaganda written for friends." If Rankin were that kind, he would have written propaganda in support of Mr. Upchurch, for it happens that Rankin's father is a property owner in the section! Mr. Upchurch would thus have to agree that Rankin was writing against his own interests.

3. As for the business of having friends at court, Mr. Upchurch's opening remark to the editor was that he had gone to school with the associate editor.

However, those are small matters beside the question of whether or not the 511 Negro houses to sell for $5,000 are to be built. As we said at the time, such controversies are never simple except to the self-interested. This is not an easy problem to settle—race problems never were, never will be— and it is just as well that the City Planning Commission hearing will be resumed today.

Auburn To Abolish Negro Slum Areas

AUBURN, Ala., Oct. 1—Auburn will soon take steps to abolish its Negro slum sections.

If a proposed municipal housing authority is established here, the city commission will name five local citizens to serve on a board governing its activities.

In the event the housing authority is established, the city obliteration of such areas would be first considered.

Under the provisions of the federal housing legislation, the federal government would finance most, if not all, the cost of construction of the Negro housing projects.

A petition for a public hearing on the advisability of establishing such an authority has been circulated and a hearing set for

Veterans Court Group Asks City To Refuse Negro Housing Permit

A delegation of veterans, their families, and other residents of the Veterans Court area, asked the city planning commission yesterday to deny the proposed construction of 464 Negro houses behind the court.

The planning commission has had a plat application, filed by Folmar and Flinn, under consideration for the past two weeks. No decision had been reached last night.

The protestants led by Sam Rice Baker, local attorney, presented a petition bearing more than 200 names of persons opposed to the project. Baker represents white-owned businesses in the vicinity.

The prospective builders say that they propose to construct, sell and finance the 464 houses, if permitted.

They're Marked 'B'

SHOULD contractors be permitted to build 511 modern houses to sell for $5,000 to Negroes in the vicinity of Carver Negro High School and St. Jude's?

White residents in the environs, chiefly those in the Ridgecrest and Veterans Courts area, protested with vigor.

The City Planning Commission thereupon denied the permit.

However, another hearing was to have been held yesterday afternoon. It was postponed a week for lack of a quorum of the Planning Commission.

Such questions and controversies are never simple and we abstain from any final judgment. Nevertheless, on the basis of the investigation of Columnist Allen Rankin, we are speculating that the Planning Commission is about to act short of justice and wisdom.

Unless the Planning Commission has solid answers to the questions raised by Rankin, we believe that an injustice is being committed.

Montgomery Adv

THESE are the questions raised by Rankin:

Where the contractors had arranged to build the 511 Negro houses is clearly marked a "B" district—the classification for Negro areas.

Advertiser

Both the technicians for the City and State Planning Commissions recommended that the houses go up as planned.

Jn. 10-17-49

WOULD erection of the 511 houses place an unbearable burden on the heavily burdened sewer system, thus creating a health problem?

That has not been determined. The health officer has never said that such a problem would be created. He simply testified that the results of the survey now in progress should be heeded.

Should it be established by engineers that the sewers would be overloaded, why shouldn't additional sewers be added?

Or for lack of sewers would 400 acres of "B" zoned land be abandoned to the field mice and meadow-larks?

★

A TRAFFIC problem growing out of the houses?

No doubt the congestion will be increased. But that kind of traffic problem is everywhere. There is no end or limit to the traffic problem because every year more Americans own cars.

★

IF NEGROES cannot build in areas set apart for them, where are they to build?

Are they to do without homes?

★

AS WE said, these problems are never simple except to the self-interested. It is easy to live in one part of town and be judicious about living problems in another. Nevertheless, unless there are solid answers to the above questions, it seems to us that the Planning Commission is flabby where is should be firm, as it was on another occasion in recent memory.

The fact is that there is rarely a perfect answer to these delicate and vexatious questions. There is no frictionless way of living with our race problems. Segregation is the only possible way, but its maintenance requires restraint and a sense of justice on the part of the dominant element.

These acres behind the Negro high school are marked "B."

Negro Housing Unit Approved

Montgomery Adv

Jan. 10-25-49

Division Of Another Project Considered To Serve Both Races

Advertiser

The City Planning Commission yesterday approved the 464-unit Folmar and Flinn Negro housing project and offered a compromise on a smaller project on Belview.

In reversing its original stand on the Folmar and Flinn project (to be constructed South of Fairview Avenue and behind Veterans Court on the Mobile Road) the commission commented that the previous denial "was based upon incomplete and erroneous information."

Sam Rice Baker, attorney who represented the protestants during the hotly contested bouts, was not available for comment. He had said earlier that he was prepared to meet the issue in Circuit Court.

To Divide Project

Objectors to the 22-unit Jack Riley project, now under construction on Bleview, were told that the builder would meet them half way by dividing and converting his project into a half white, half Negro arrangement.

City Commissioner Earl James said that he and Jack Knight, secretary-manager of the Planning Commission, conferred with FHA officials in Birmingham and got their okay on the revamped set-up.

Under the proposal, which builder Riley has conditionally accepted, half of the units—those fronting on Belview,—will be reserved for white tenancy. Those behind, separated from the front units by a "buffer area," will be made into apartments for Negro occupancy, James said.

Asks Reimbursement

That seemed to please the property owners, but the condition stipulated by Riley didn't. The builder is asking that he be reimbursed for the expense of altering his plans.

The protestants said that Riley has redoubled his efforts to get as much done as possible after their protest several weeks ago.

James said he did not know how much compensation Riley would ask.

On the Folmar and Flinn decision, the commission reported that its first decision, denying the project, was made wholly on the basis of the unhealthy effect the project would have on the sewage situation.

But the survey conducted by the city engineer after the first hearing "indicates conclusively that the addition of this project . . . would not result in overloading or constitute an additional hazard to the health . . . of the community."

The report added that any traffic congestion that might result from the project was not a proper consideration for the board, but is the responsibility of the city and state.

The meeting yesterday was not open to the public, except for a few minutes when Belview property owners were consulted.

Negro Housing Project Denied

Advertiser

Mobile Road Proposal Is Turned Down After Protests

46 A Housing

The application to construct 464 Negro houses in an area south of Fairview Avenue at the Mobile Road intersection was denied by the City Planning Commission yesterday.

Mont. Adv. 9-24-49

Reasons given by the commission for refusing to permit the project were "health, sanitation and safety factors."

The proposed project would have been built behind the St. Francis Tourist Court and the Veterans Court area on the Mobile Road. Petitions bearing more than 500 names protested the project.

Attorneys representing about 20 white owned businesses in the vicinity contended that the project would ruin such establishments as the St. Francis, the Ranch Restaurant, Doby's Tourist Court, and others in the neighborhood.

Residents of Veterans Court held a mass protest meeting shortly after the announcement of the application.

At an open meeting held last week, Dr. A. H. Graham, county health officer, said that the project, or any such project of comparable size, would probably overburden sewage facilities in the area.

The Planning Commission made their decision in closed session.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

The Zoning Problem And The Law

To the Editor:

We are very much grieved, perturbed, bewildered and keenly hurt because of the very bad and deplorable misfortune of the colored people of North Smithfield over the loss of their homes in which our Bishop S. L. Greene shared very heavily.

We fault the City Commission for all of it. The fault lies in the misguidance of the commission, for it knows what is zoned and what is not. It knew that white and colored people were there already, notwithstanding its having been zoned for white people, as it is stated, and therefore should not have permitted the moving in of colored people in the first place under such circumstances. Federal Judge Clarence Mullins, prior to the dynamiting of Samuel Matthews' house some months ago, which was the center of a dispute over the city's zoning law which prohibits Negroes living on property zoned for white residential purposes.

We further say that any time the laws of a city government fail to uphold the decision of the courts, whether federal or otherwise, not only property, but the lives of Negroes are imperiled beyond degree; and where else or from what other source can justice be expected? It was nothing short of abject carelessness on the part of the commission, knowing this condition and then to have risked the lives of people and destruction of property in such manner; especially when they alone had the information that "someone is likely to get hurt," etc. We hold the commission absolutely responsible, and it should make an adjustment with the unfortunates for the loss of their property.

On the other hand, we do not think that this great negligence on the part of the commission resulting in such great misfortune to certain of its citizens can be covered merely by the assignment of detectives, whatever the number. For even should the guilty be apprehended, this in no manner recovers the loss of property or humiliation.

Who did it is not the prime factor with us as law abiding citizens, but it is protection from persons who demand that a law that has been declared "illegal" be enforced. This is fundamental; other things become secondary. Instead of blasting the homes of citizens and destroying property, an injunction or restrainer could have been easily obtained which would have kept the owners out until the commission had made its report.

We cannot say other than that it is a shame, and a disgrace on Birmingham and Alabama, and has given our section of the country a great blow which unquestionably will be noticed throughout the world.

We earnestly hope and pray that in order to prevent future happenings of this kind that a united effort be put forward, first by the commission itself and correspondingly supported and cooperated in by the leaders of both races, to work out a fair adjustment, not only for the present losses, but such a division of God's earth that all can live together in peace and harmony.

AFRICAN METHODIST MINISTERS' ALLIANCE, T. D. Driver, B. F. Mallard, Floyd E. Legg, H. O. Swanson.

You Name It, Bud

To the Editor:

When and if Tom, Dick, Harry, Horace, Frank, Mac and I arrive at an unzoned Eden and find flocks of unbleached, unsegregated saints enjoying the delights of the place along with swarms of spirits translated from poorly pigmented mortals near-perfected through "faith plus works"—omigosh!

With no place to go but the nethermost one; and it operating, quite likely, under rules requiring the hosts of light-complexioned and varihued unredeemed to roast together in one vast, unpartitioned pit. Will that be—oh, you name it, Bud.

Broth-err! W. C. KELLEY.
4032 Clairmont Avenue.

* * *

Not Dynamite Rule

To the Editor:

Three Negro houses are torn apart with TNT at midnight. The perpetrators of this deed will probably not be identified, for white men control Birmingham. Negro life savings are just as precious to them as to white men. Negroes will not knowingly jeopardize life savings.

Whites and colored, North, South, East or West, do not enjoy living on the same street. Federal Court decisions do not recognize this fact. Mr. Morgan says, "Our zoning laws are very loosely drawn and inadequate."

We should have a mediation or adjustment board with equal number of members of both races working in conjunction with the Zoning Board to pass upon purchase or sale of all property where the two races live in proximity. Such a citizens' committee would eliminate dynamite rule—an unnecessary, un-American and undemocratic way of deciding community problems.

Violence leads to violence. Arrest and conviction of dynamiters will not prevent further dynamiting. Property owners, lawfully if possible and unlawfully if necessary, will protect the value of their investment.

Birmingham white and colored citizens must act quickly to prevent further disgrace to our beloved city. We, the white and colored citizens, are Birmingham. We cannot ignore human nature. We, the people, bring respect or disgrace to Birmingham. W. G. KITTS.
1216 Woodland Avenue.

3 Houses Bombed in Sale to Negroes

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (AP) — Three houses, recently sold to Negroes, were dynamited Friday and badly damaged. No one was hurt.

A delegation from the Graymont area, a White section, protested Tuesday to the City Commission against sale of homes in that community to Negroes.

Negro Houses Are Dynamited

Folsom Denounces Acts As 'Anarchy At Worst'

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., March 25.—(AP)—Dynamite blasts today heavily damaged three houses owned by Negroes.

The explosions came about a minute apart. The houses were unoccupied and no one was hurt.

Negroes had just purchased the homes, which were being repaired. One of them contained a few pieces of furniture. The other two were empty.

Birmingham's city commission received a protest today by a delegation from the Graymont area against sale of homes in that community to Negroes. Graymont is several miles from North Smithfield, where the explosions took place.

The North Smithfield area is made up of both white and Negro families. One white family lives on the corner of the block where the blast occurred.

Bishop S. L. Green of the African Methodist Church, owns two of the three damaged houses. A Negro veteran owns the third. Green said he bought the two houses and two adjoining lots about four months ago.

The Negro bishop said he bought the property in "good faith" that no controversy existed as to colored people living there.

He added that he obtained the property through "a white real estate man." A contract for repairs on Green's two houses had been let for $9,000. He said the two houses and two lots cost $13,700.

Meanwhile, Gov. James E. Folsom, attending a teachers' convention here today, issued a statement calling the blastings "anarchy at its worst."

"Local law enforcement officers should bend every effort to enforce the laws against such crimes," the statement added.

Action Is Asked By Local Pastors In Home Blasting

Deplore Violence In North Smithfield; Police Push Probe

Birmingham Protestant pastors Saturday called on law enforcement agencies of Birmingham to bring "to justice" those responsible for the dynamiting Friday morning of three homes bought by Negroes in the North Smithfield section.

In a strongly-worded resolution, the executive committee of the Birmingham Protestant Pastors Union went on record as deploring "use of violence rather than resorting to orderly processes of law."

* * *

THE RESOLUTION was made public by Dr. Dale LeCount, president of the Pastors Union, chairman of the executive committee and pastor of Sixth Avenue Presbyterian Church.

It read as follows:

"We have been deeply shocked by the recent dynamiting of three Negro homes. It appears that the homes had been purchased in good faith. We deplore the use of violence rather than resorting to the orderly processes of law.

"We believe that the right to hold private property is sacred and human life too precious to be jeopardized. We urge therefore that the law enforcement agencies of our city rest neither day or night until the perpetrators of this crime be brought to justice."

Saturday Detective Capt. C. L. Pierce ordered the five detectives assigned to the blasting to "get to the bottom" of the case.

"We're going to get somewhere with this case," he declared.

* * *

MEANWHILE, expressions of protest against the blasts came from two organizations here.

Horace B. Hanson, Jr., president of the Graymont-College Hills Civic Association, issued a statement condemning "the unlawful action of Thursday night."

Mr. Hanson said neither he nor "any members of our association have ever condoned such lawlessness."

He criticized real estate men and others who he said would sell property to Negroes although that property was zoned for white occupancy.

"We have consistently urged that the zoning regulations remain as they are as far as this area is concerned," he said.

* * *

THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY of the Mount Pilgrim District Missionary Baptist Association, representing 125 churches, issued a statement deploring "this atrocious, uncivilized, undemocratic and un-Christian act on the part of those who willfully, premeditatively and maliciously committed this crime."

"We have become unduly shocked and very much disturbed and our faith severly shaken in those who would try to make us believe they are our friends," the statement said.

"We are therefore asking that immediate steps be taken to investigate and bring to justice those who committed this mistreatment that has been heaped upon us, a law abiding and peace loving people.

"We understand these homes were purchased in good faith from white owners through legitimate real estate men and we further understand there is no law restricting this area to any particular race."

The statement was signed by Mrs. O. C. Goodgame, president; Mrs. T. A. Gardner, secretary, and Mrs. M. B. Gaillard, chairman of public relations for the auxiliary.

* * *

H. E. HAGOOD, city building inspector, has notified five Negro families living in the area that it is illegal for them to occupy homes there because the section is zoned for white residential purposes.

A number of other Negro families living in the area also will be given similar notices, Mr. Hagood said.

He said they would be given "a reasonable time to comply with the law." If they don't comply, "it then would be necessary to take enforcement measures," he said.

* * *

THE AREA in question is zoned "B-1 white residential," Mr. Hagood said.

One family in the section has property zoned "A-1 white residential."

Commissioner James W. Morgan said the blasting was "regrettable."

Mr. Morgan previously had pointed out the city's zoning laws "are both weak and illegal."

In July of 1947, Federal Judge Clarence Mullins had ruled the city's zoning laws unconstitutional on the particular that they prevented Negroes from living on property zoned for white residential purposes.

Last Tuesday the Graymont-College Hills Civic Association appeared before the City Commission to protest issuance of building permits to Negroes for homes in "white" areas.

The group also asked that no "certificates of occupancy" be issued Negroes who had bought homes in the North Smithfield section zoned for white residential purposes.

* * *

THE AREA ZONED for Negro residential purposes starts two blocks east of Center Street, Mr. Hagood said, and extends east. The white area, he said, goes one block east of Center Street and extends west.

The dynamited homes were at First Street, West, and 11th Avenue, West, one block west of Center Street. The area is north of Eighth Avenue, lying between the Smith-field Court housing project and Graymont School.

ivate Capital Urged or Negro Housing Here

BY CLANCY LAKE
News Staff Writer

"If Negro building projects continue at the present rate there will be a vast improvement in Birmingham's blighted areas during the next 18 months."

That word comes from H. E. Hagood, the city's chief building inspector. He is urging that private capital here be invested in Negro housing. "There is a big demand for it," he said. "Negroes are crying for decent homes."

* * *

THE INSPECTOR pointed out that each time a new unit is opened it paves the way for an old condemned structure to be town down. Numerous Negro families are forced to live in buildings which have been condemned because they have no other place to go.

"Both our force and the Health Department has had a drive on during the past year to get rid of these ramshackle, unsafe homes," Mr. Hagood said. "Lately we've had to slack up a bit on our program of demolishing these condemned buildings. But the situation is much better than it was a year ago."

He said the problem of clearing up Birmingham's blighted areas is being solved "gradually."

* * *

AS AN EXAMPLE OF what can be done, the inspector brought out records for the past year. They showed that at least 731 new units were built at a number of Negro projects. In addition, there were hundreds of permits granted for individual Negro homes.

During the past three months 63 former Negro homes with 81 living units were demolished. As new Negro housing develops, the number of wrecked homes to be torn down will be stepped up.

* * *

"AT MANY OF THE condemned homes," Mr. Hagood said, "owners are making alterations and changes in plumbing to comply with health and building requirements.

"At best these are makeshift arrangements. They do not solve the problem. The solution is in building more and more of the type Negro housing projects that have started here during the past year.

"Once we get a substantial number of these projects," Mr. Hagood concluded, "there will be a marked improvement in the city's external appearance."

Violence Won't Serve

More than a year and a half ago United States District Judge Clarence Mullins heard a case brought before him by Negro plaintiffs. They claimed that the city of Birmingham would not issue a certificate of occupancy on a house constructed within the city's limits. The city had issued a building permit. The city held that the house in question was within a section of the city zoned exclusively for white residents. Section 1604 of the Birmingham General Code provided that no building or part thereof in certain residential districts could be occupied or used by a person of the Negro race, and Section 1605 set up a similar restriction applying to the white race. These two sections involved zones for residence based only on race and color qualifications.

On Aug. 4, 1947, Judge Mullins ruled as follows:

> "Section 1604 and 1605 of the Zoning Chapter of the General City Code of the defendant are unconstitutional and void as being in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States."

Another part of the court's decision read: "The mere fact that the unconstitutional provision is included in a general zoning ordinance does not render it valid."

* * *

The city of Birmingham now apparently approves building permits to any person of any race to construct residences in any part of the city as long as other provisions of the zoning ordinance are not violated.

Persons who have lived in a certain neighborhood for a long time, who have invested their money in real estate in the area, are, of course, concerned by changes in the area. It is not surprising that citizens meet to discuss ways and means within the law of meeting the situation.

The problem was bound to bring complications. It has now done so in the North Smithfield district.

* * *

Three houses were partially demolished by explosions in the early morning hours of Friday. All were homes at the edge of Graymont. All had at one time belonged to white persons. All had been sold to Negroes and were expected soon to be occupied by Negroes as residences. At the time of the explosions all were vacant.

There are not words strong enough to convey adequately this newspaper's utter condemnation of the use of violence in such a case. It recognizes the fact that changes in living conditions in the area and consequent serious problems were implicit in the events that had occurred there prior to the bombings. But it is the men responsible for the explosions who have flouted law and order and decency.

* * *

There is only one way to bring this matter to a successful solution. It must be through the exercise of wise restraint by both races. It must be by reaching some sort of a voluntary agreement by the best elements of both races. There should be no inflammatory language from either side. There should be no further action which might hazard peaceful solution.

It goes without saying that the Police Department of Birmingham must work with zeal to find the persons guilty of the atrocity and to bring them to justice. The decent citizens of Birmingham know that the safety of all is imperiled if such action as that taken Friday morning before daylight is allowed to go unpunished.

There is then the long range problem of finding a way to live peacefully within the law. Negro citizens have every right to expect that they can live in decency with their own families and among their friends. Often, even when they have the money to pay for it, they can't find decent residential territory in which to purchase homes or build them.

But the white persons who have already developed an area have the moral right to live in it without fear that their investments will be weakened or destroyed by unwise encroachment.

A way can be found, but not by violence.

Residences Bought Recently By Negroes; Blast On Heels Of White Protest Over Sales

Three shattering blasts shook the North Smithfield area shortly after midnight.

The explosions were timed about a minute apart. When the damage was surveyed by police officers, who rushed to the scene, three homes lay in ruins. No one was injured. No one was in the places at the time.

The homes had just been purchased by Negroes for occupancy by Negroes. The structures were located at First Street and 11th Avenue, West. They were being repaired. A few odds and ends of furniture were in one of the homes. The other two were empty.

* * *

Two Officers On Case

POLICE CHIEF FLOYD EDDINS and Detective Capt. C. L. Pierce assigned two detectives to investigate.

Detective Capt. Pierce said the homes were "apparently dynamited."

Police pointed out the explosions came on the heels of a protest entered by the Graymont-College Hills Civic Association before the City Commission on Tuesday of this week.

The association was protesting issuance of building permits for Negroes to construct homes in what is said to be an "A-1 white residential area."

One white family lives on the corner of the block where last night's blasts occurred. Several white families live in the area.

The area, in general, is described as being "betwixt and between" white and Negro residential areas.

* * *

'Life Savings Gone'

BISHOP S. L. GREEN, of the African Methodist Church, had purchased two of the homes about four months ago. He also bought two lots in the same block on which he intended building homes for Negro tenants shortly.

"My life savings have gone up in smoke," the bishop said. He has jurisdiction over Alabama for his church. He came here last May from Little Rock, Ark., and had intended making Birmingham his home. He was a bishop for his church in Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana for 20 years previously.

"I still want to make Birmingham my home," he said.

Bishop Green said he was "grieved and astounded" at the explosions.

"I was reliably informed all the trouble had been settled and that no one had any objections to my buying the property and living there," he said.

"I bought the property through a white real estate man, but we had no discussions about whether anyone objected.

"I have no disposition to break any laws or traditions of any kind. I bought the property in good faith that there was no controversy to colored people living there at all."

* * *

THE BISHOP SAID HE PAID $13,700 for two homes and two vacant lots and had just let a contract for $9,000 to repair the two homes. He said he didn't know now what he would do about the remains of the homes.

He said he had insurance on one of the homes, but didn't know whether the insurance covered an explosion.

The third home, the bishop said, was purchased by a Negro veteran of World War II. The bishop didn't know the veteran's name.

Police investigation developed the third home was bought by John Madison, of Apartment 10, 1412 Fifth Avenue, North. Madison had brought some furniture to the home and had planned to move in next week.

Bishop Green, ex-officio president of the board of trustees of Payne College in Woodlawn, now lives on the college grounds.

The blasts were heard as far away as Forest Park on the Southside and Ingenook to the north.

Supervisors Vote Against Racial Discrimination In Re-Development

At the public hearing before the Board of Supervisors committee on buildings, lands and city planning, the proponents of legislation permitting Negroes and other racial minorities to occupy property acquired and redeveloped under the Community Re-Development Act scored a very vital victory Wednesday afternoon.

Notwithstanding the four and a half months of "delayed action" on the part of the Re-Development on Housing, the Supervisor's committee voted a "do pass" recommendation to an ordinance making it unlawful for re-development property owners to discriminate against any person because of race, creed or color." The penalty would be a $500 fine, imprisonment for a period of six months or both.

Morgan Gunst, chairman of the Re-Development Agency, asserted that there was no need for rushing this legislation, and that his agency would require an additional sixty days to further study the problem.

Edward Howden, director of the Council for Civic Unity, pointed out to the Supervisors' committee that the paramount question for consideration was one of policy, "whether the City of San Francisco was going to guarantee to every citizen his cardinal rights under the constitution of the U. S. irrespective of race, color or creed?" Attorneys Cecil F. Poole and Irving Rosenblatt, co-authors of the C.C.U.'s Analysis of the

ance and re-

Struggle For Little Tokyo Grows Heated

LOS ANGELES — The dispute in a three-year tug-of-war between southern Negro migrants and returned Japanese evacuees for control of Little Tokyo flared anew last week when the city announced plans to raze a portion of the section to make way for a police administration building.

If the building is constructed as planned, 3,000 will be left homeless. Ninety per cent of the number is colored. A joint emergency meeting was called by the Property Owners Association and IPP to halt the ouster move.

Located in the downtown section of Los Angeles and bounded by Alameda, Third, Main and First sts., prior to the war "Little Tokyo" sheltered the bulk of the city's huge Japanese population.

At least 25,000 Negro Japanese war workers migrated to the area following the evacuation of the Japanese in 1942. When they returned in 1946, tension rose to the rioting point. The Japanese tried to reclaim their homes, hotels and other business sites and to bar Negroes from the area.

Negro residents argue that some of the housing is in deplorable condition and should be torn down.

The Japanese, on the other hand, contend the lowest type of Negro migrated to the area and depreciated property values by defacing the buildings and over-crowding living quarters.

Housing(Claifornia)

3-11-49-Sri.

committee, recommended favorable action and was supported by Supervisors Dewey Meade and Leo Halley who voted unanimously to recommend passage of the ordinance. This recommendation will be acted upon by the full Board of Supervisors next Monday, and then will be sent to Mayor Robinson. Sun. Reporter

In the brief discussion prior to taking the vote, Supervisor Halley affirmed that, the Supervisors had no other alternative but to support and ordinance which guarantees to every citizen in the city of San Francisco his basic rights under the constitution.

Action on the companion resoultion to the ordinance was held in abeyance for 30 days, when the Re-Development Agency is expected to make their belated recommendations. San. Francisco, Calif

Among those present as observers at the hearing were Fred Hoshiyama, executive secretary Buchanan St. Br. YMCA; Dr. Herbert H. Landrum, Council of Churches; Larry Bloorgarden, the American Jewish Council; and Rev. Fr. E. A. McLaughlin. Sri. 3-11-49

ordinance and resolutions, also spoke for the proponents of the ordinance, and petitioned against any further delays by the committee, These were followed by Harry Steingart of the CIO, Seaton Manning of the Urban League and Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, of the NAACP.

After a full hearing on the matters, The Hon. Chester McPhee, chairman of the Supervisors Sun. Reporter.

46a 1949

Housing(Colorado)

BUILDERS TURNING TO NEGROES' HOMES

New York, Sep

Federal Official Tells Urban League Several Pioneering Projects Are Under Way

9-7-49

By DORIS GREENBERG

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DENVER, Sept. 6—Private builders in cities throughout the country have started this year to show some interest in putting up homes for Negroes, it was reported here today.

Dr. Frank Horne, assistant to the administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency in Washington, said that several pioneering projects had already been begun.

He described this "small but hopeful movement" at a luncheon for leaders of the National Urban League, which is holding its annual conference this week on the campus of the University of Denver.

In his informal talk and then in an interview afterward, Dr. Horne said that until recently it had been virtually impossible to find private builders—and lenders—willing to discuss housing for Negroes.

Change in the Last Year

However, the situation had changed significantly in the last year, he declared.

The break had come partly as the result of efforts of Government officials and agencies like the Urban League to impress builders with the fact that there was a substantial market among Negroes for medium-priced homes, he said.

But even more importantly, he added, the builders themselves had been out looking for new prospective buyers now that the market for higher-priced homes seemed almost satiated."

Whatever the reason, there were definite signs in many cities that the traditional shying-away from building for Negros was no longer the problem it used to be.

Dr. Horne, a dentist who has been working in the housing field for fourteen years, said he could not list all the new developments, but cited some typical ones.

In New York, he said, a Negro doctor had been the moving force in starting a seventy-seven-unit apartment house for Negroes near City College, uptown.

And in Chicago, a mutual ownership project with 600 to 700 apartments for Negroes was almost at the building stage.

He said there were other projects in Detroit, Akron, Gary, Ind., Atlanta, Memphis, Seattle and Los Angeles.

"In all of these places and others, private developments are being put up under FHA commitments for occupancy by Negroes," he said.

Dr. Horne explained that Federal Housing Administration loans were being obtained to pay part of the costs, and that private lenders — in some instances loan associations formed with Negro capital—were paying the rest.

Franklin Thorne, director of the racial relations branch of the Public Housing Administration, described public housing prospects at the luncheon.

Other sessions of the conference of the league, which has branches all over the country that provide various social welfare services for Negroes, considered problems of industrial relations and vocational guidance.

The specific steps that are being taken by the Navy to carry out Defense Secretary Louis Johnson's ban on discrimination in the armed forces were discussed by two Negro officers of the Navy.

Comdr. Luther Heintz, director of the Navy's R. O. T. C. program, and Lieut. Dennis W. Nelson, who is assigned to Mr. Johnson's office, said that opportunities for Negroes were steadily being broadened.

They urged league officials to encourage more Negroes to enlist in the service and said that men qualified to serve as officers were especially needed.

Two hundred and fifty delegates are attending the conference, which is to end Friday.

Douglas Takes 4 Senate Colleagues On Tour of Slums Near Capitol Hill

By CLAYTON KNOWLES
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, April 19—Senator Paul H. Douglas, Democrat, of Illinois, told the Senate today that the country's slums were "a moral cancer, a health hazard and an economic loss" against which the national housing bill, now under debate, would make "appreciable inroads."

He displayed enlarged photographs of slums in typical American cities, followed up with charts, then capped his presentation by escorting four other Senators on a tour of squalid, sub-standard areas within a few blocks of the Capitol.

The four accompanying Mr. Douglas were Senators Raymond Baldwin, Republican, of Connecticut; Theodore Green, Democrat, of Rhode Island; Homer Ferguson, Republican, of Michigan, and Wayne Morse, Republican, of Oregon.

The tour was confined to a six-block radius of the Capitol and included visits to once-fashionable sections, where brick houses built by George Washington still stand.

The Senators visited alley after alley of slums in the southwest area and saw the filth of alley dwellings where whites and Negroes live closely packed in unsanitary surroundings.

Senator Morse later told the Senate that a health officer who took part in the inspection said that conditions were so bad in the area that there was danger of a "highly contagious" disease breaking out within sight of the Capitol.

Mr. Douglas conceded that the Administration-supported measure, which contemplates construction of 810,000 low-rent housing units in the next six years, did not require that a like number of slum units be abolished, but he expressed hope that administration of the program would be in that direction.

"I would like to see us develop a record in debate in the Senate," he said, "that would make it plain that the objective of this program is primarily to remove slums."

Enactment of the program, which earmarks $1,250,000,000 for slum clearance apart from billions more for low-rent housing "will strengthen the real foundations of our democracy and deprive those who are waging a propaganda war against us of some of the talking points which they use," the Senator asserted.

Noting that ten to fifteen million Americans are living in slums "with the true number probably closer to the upper than to the lower figure," Mr. Douglas said:

"In spite of our slums, we are still the best country on earth. But if we can eliminate them, we shall be still better."

The graphic evidence presented by the Senator, a former university economics professor, showed how disease, crime and immorality flourish in blighted areas.

The situation in Washington, he asserted, could be duplicated in every major city in the country. He quoted the urban development committee of the American Bar Association as saying that slums "yield only 6 per cent of the average city's revenue while absorving 45 per cent of its service costs."

Voting Slated for Today

States and cities cannot cope with the slum problem, he asserted, because they "simply do not have the income to shoulder either all or a major part of the load." Individual efforts are equally futile because of high land costs in blighted areas that normally border industrial areas, Mr. Douglas said. These factors, he added, dictated the need for Federal assistance to the states and localities to remove these conditions.

Voting on amendments to the bill is scheduled to start tomorrow with the leaders on both sides of the aisle hopeful of getting a final vote. The session will continue into the night if there is a chance that action on the measure can be completed.

Senator William Langer, Republican, of North Dakota, criticized the bill for not making adequate provision for farm housing assistance. He said that the total of $267,500,000 in aid proposed over a four-year period did not provide "a fair deal for the farmer."

Called 'Mere Pittance'

When Senator Kenneth S. Wherry, the Republican floor leader, supported this argument, Senator John J. Sparkman, Democrat, of Alabama, who headed the subcommittee that framed the compromise bill, said that he agreed that the aid was "a mere pittance."

"But I want to remind the Senate," he added, "that this is the first time we got this far. There is an argument made that this is an untried field. Some members of the committee opposed any aid, others felt we should start modestly.

"My hope is that over the next four years the program will prove itself so we can install a program that will really mean something to the farmer."

Mr. Langer was unsatisfied, saying that he would seek to amend the bill tomorrow to offer $3,750,000,000 in farm aid. He recalled that this was the amount lent to Great Britain by this country in 1946. When that bill was being acted on, Mr. Langer sought vainly to have the appropriation diverted to buying a $10,000 house for every American veteran.

Senators Take Slumming Tour Right In Capitol's Backyard

Senator Douglas Takes Four On Trip Around Washington In Move To Okeh Housing Bill

WASHINGTON, April 19—(AP)—Senators took a slumming tour today — right in the capitol's backyard — as they weighed a multi-billion dollar housing bill designed to help wipe out "blighted areas" and to build 810,000 low rent dwellings as public projects.

Senator Douglas (D), Illinois, served as a "guide" for his colleagues. First he showed photographs of squalid housing accomdations only a few hundred feet from where the lawmakers sat. Later he took four senators on a personally escorted tour through the once - fashionable section where brick houses George Washington once built still stand.

Before leaving for the hour-long inspection, Douglas told the Senate that slum areas here and elsewhere in the country are a "moral cancer, a health hazard and an economic loss."

Slum clearance, he said, calls for a "major surgical operation" for which cities cannot meet the bill unless assisted by the federal government. Under the long range housing program nearing a Senate vote, the government would make available $1,000,000,000 for loans, with an additional $500,000,000 for grants over a five-year period.

The four men who accompanied Douglas—Senators Baldwin (R), Connecticut, Green (D), Rhode Island, Ferguson, and Morse (R), Oregon—did not meet any of the thousands of Easter tourists still in the city.

Instead they smelled the stench and saw the filth of alley dwellings in which whites and Negroes, closely packed together, live within sight of the capitol dome.

At one place—ironically named Pleasant Court — the senators ducked through a doorway which led into an alleyway littered with broken bottles, tin cans, garbage and other refuse. In the midst of the debris was an outdoor toilet.

Police Sergeant Ernest Fuller remarked — "we found a man frozen to death in one of these toilets last Winter."

Douglas quoted data to prove that slum areas cause more expense from crime, fires, tuberculosis and other sickness, than cities can pay from taxes.

He showed photographs from Savannah, Ga., Meridian, Miss., Texas City, Tex., Oklahoma City and Gadsden, Ala.

Senatorial Surprise

April Fool's Day occurred some days ago, but the five Senators taking a tour of Washington slums would have us think it just passed. If I knew Senator Ferguson personally, I would chuck him under the chin and drawl: "Come now, Senator. You're among friends. We understand."

Meaning, of course, we understand he and all the other gentlemen on the "Hill" have known about such things for years. Why, it's as much a part of the program for showing visiting friends the town to point toward the slum area as it is to point to the signing of the Constitution.

The local citizen says to his visitors, "See if you can't pass the word along to your Representatives. We don't have any."

Last year, the National Committee on Segregation in the Nation's Capital published a condensation of the research findings of a study to discover the conditions and causes of segregation in the District of Columbia. On pages 44 and 45 there are photos to match those shown in *The Washington Post*. Statistics alongside indicate the District of Columbia colored people are the greatest victims. Twenty-three per cent lack private flush toilets. Twenty-nine per cent lack private baths. Eight per cent lack electric lights . . . 11 per cent running water . . . 30 per cent central heating.

Interestingly enough, the work carries a quotation from a foreign person from India. It reads: "I would rather be an Untouchable in the Hindu caste system than a Negro in Washington." It's a shame it takes our foreign friends to move things.

Five years from now, I hope we don't have to go through another survey of "shocked" Senators as they gaze on the disease-ridden shacks of "squalor's alley." Come, gentlemen! Now you know. What are you going to do about it?

LESTER A. SCHLUP, JR.
Washington.

Ruhland Hints At Screening Of Negroes

District Health Officer George C. Ruhland said yesterday that he is "almost ready" to suggest screening of Negroes planning to move to Washington to determine whether they would be a "drug on the market."

Dr. Ruhland made the statement in a slum clearance conference before the District Commissioners and offered it as a partial solution of the District's slum problem. He repeated virtually the same statement later before a Senate District Subcommittee.

"What I am about to say is po- ...ical poison, I know," said Ruh- ...land. "But colored people are the ... ones who primarily decide the ... health conditions in the District. ... "John Doe comes up here from ... Alabama. He makes more money ... than he could at home and finds ... Washington a paradise. So he noti- ... relatives and they come ... place to grow greens."

FOUR BLOCKS AWAY FROM THE CAPITOL IN WASHINGTON

Senators on a visit to one of the slum areas after debate on long-range housing bill. From left to right, the Senators are Theodore Green of Rhode Island, Paul Douglas of Illinois, who invited the legislators to make the trip; Wayne Morse of Oregon, Raymond Baldwin of Connecticut and Homer Ferguson of Michigan. Wash. Post 3-21-49

Associated Press Wirephoto

Bi-Racial Unit Seeks Funds in Slum War

Washington Post 4-6-49

By Sam Zagoria

Post Reporter

Washington D.C.

A Municipal Center meeting yesterday between Negro leaders and Health Officer George C. Ruhland resulted in a move to organize a biracial committee to work for slum clearance.

The committee will urge congressional groups to approve funds for expansion of health services and housing and will lead a program of general education in proper health practices.

Dr. Ruhland, who last week proposed discouraging further influx of Negroes without funds as a means of aiding slum clearance, called the session to explain his suggestion. Post 4-5-49

Addressing a group of 25 persons, including the press, he said the health problem in the District principally involves the Negro, and out of consideration for his welfare as well as for the remainder of the city population, he recommended acquatinting would-be residents with the housing and health problems they would face.

Dr. Ruhland denied the proposal was prompted by racial prejudice and offered as evidence the fact that he has discourage many doctors from coming here and has headed a department which has employed Negro supervisors of nursing, dentists and other professional persons.

Negroes representing the Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations, the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance, the Baptist Ministers Conference and other groups, said press reports of a proposal for screening Negroes had "hurt and embarrassed" them.

Several said Negroes were being made the scapegoats for slum conditions. The Rev. Robert W. Brooks, Lincoln Congregation Temple, said they were "forced to live in the worst sections of the city and then were condemned for it." Dr. Brooks was named temporary chairman of the bi-racial committee which is to be organized.

The Rev. E. C. Smith, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, said slums were the result of a "bad social system." "Downtown there are few places where Negro people can get something to eat. A man can't work all day and exist on peanuts and not dogs and be healthy. That's what we should be dealing with."

Dr. Paul B. Cornely, medical director of Freedmen's Hospital and professor of preventive medicine and public health at Howard University, said health conditions were determined by the amount of money spent on public health organizations, not by particular races. He advocated a three-point program, which was praised by the assemblage:

1. Increase health education among Negroes by adding a staff for this purpose in the Health Department. Post 4-5-49

2. Educate real estate operators to lift racial barriers on housing. "Negroes have to accept bad housing. The Negro doesn't want to live in these poor houses."

3. Since poor health conditions affect the white part of the community, and since many whites also need training in health practices, they should aid in the general educational program.

Several speakers scored the failure of the Health Department to force improvement of poor housing. Col. William H. Cary, head of the bureau of public health engineering, said that if condemnation was strictly enforced, 4000 to 5000 persons would be evicted.

He said it was true that many now live in places "not fit to stable animals, much less to house people," but if razing is ordered, "Where are they to go?" He said "poor white trash," as wel las Negroes, were in this category.

THE CONGRESS

The Sun Chicago Ill.

Inspection Trip

A scant hundred feet from the Senate Office Building lies a dismal little thoroughfare named Schott's Alley. Its huddled brick houses have no plumbing, heat or electricity. In summer, the stench of its outdoor privies drifts through the open windows of the apartment building where many Senate secretaries live. But few Senators know that it exists.

Last week, as the Senate droned on about slums in Chicago, Philadelphia and New York, Illinois' freshman Senator Paul Douglas invited his colleagues to inspect the slums that lie within the shadow of the Capitol. Four Senators made the first trip; seven the second. With Douglas as guide, the first group—Republicans Wayne Morse, Homer Ferguson, Raymond Baldwin and Democrat Theodore Green—set out with the air of men exploring an Arabian casbah.

They stumbled through alleys and courts littered with tin cans, gritty with cinders and broken glass, past tar-paper shacks and sagging frame and brick houses where rents ranged from $12 to $30 a month. They ducked under clothes drying on lines strung across the alleys. A policeman waved a hand at the rows of backyard privies: "We found a man frozen to death in one of these toilets last winter," he told them casually.

At a house on F Street S.W., an old Negro lay on a bare bedspring in the junk-crammed yard, taking the sun. One of his legs was off at the knee. Inside, his son and daughter-in-law lived with their nine children in two rooms. The eldest girl had just borne an illegitimate baby. Tattered cotton coverlets lay in disorder on the only three beds. Chunks of plaster had fallen from the walls, exposing the laths. There was no heat; water came from a faucet in the yard. The young Negro wife giggled in embarrassment, twiddled the wick of the oil lamp that furnished the only light.

Douglas gagged at the stench and bolted for the door. Ferguson demanded: "Aren't there any health laws? Surely, we don't permit that kind of thing?" The police officer explained that eviction notices were served but seldom enforced: where would [illegible] go? In 1946, Congress had authorized $20 million for District of Columbia slum clearance, but it had never appropriated the money. Cried Baldwin: "The smell! The smell! It's bad enough when this high wind is blowing. What must it be like in the hot summer months?"

When the Senators got back, they went to the Senate washroom and scrubbed their hands thoroughly.

Wall to Separate Grove Dwellings

Compromise Forced By Whites' Protests

MIAMI — A 15-foot buffer strip and a 5-foot-tall fence or wall to divide colored from white residents was suggested last Tuesday by the Miami Planning Board as a compromise zoning plan for the colored housing project on St. Albans tract in Coconut Grove.

The developers, J. A. Bouvier Jr., and Malcomb B. Wiseheart, both white, say that the plan is satisfactory for them in their building of a number of one-family residences on a 100-foot strip north of the white homes along Kumquat Ave.

The development, upon which three duplexes have already been built, would mean rezoning of the Douglas Rd., frontage from liberal business to single-family colored residences and zoning the rest of the tract for mutiple colored dwellings.

Construction Halted

In drafting the recommendation to the City Commission, the planning board sought to harmonize demands of the developers and of the Coconut Grove Citizens Committee on Slum Clearance.

The city held up issuance of the developers' permits after the commission on Nov. 3 froze construction in the area for 90 days upon request of the Slum Clearance Committee, because they objected to multiple units in all but a 65-foot strip along the Southern boundary.

Urges Tampa Housing Plan

(Defender Florida Bureau)

TAMPA, Fla. — Brigadier General D. R. Hutchison, commanding officer of MacDill Air Force Base, declared the housing situation for some 1,800 Negro troops stationed here, to be deplorable and urged the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce to approve the proposed housing development for Negroes in the Jackson Heights area.

The city board has failed to approve the plan submitted by the Economy Building Company that wants to erect homes for Negroes in the area. They have considered a counter proposal suggested by the Jackson Heights Civic Club to extend Oakland Cemetery on the site wanted for Negro expansion.

The Tampa Junior Chamber of Commerce endorsed the project as did the Tampa Board of Realtors in their executive session.

Gen. Hutchinson pointed out that the proposed housing project would ease housing congestion near the air base.

Tampa Starts Negro Housing Project

Tampa, Fla., —(G)— After a long delay due largely to objections from white citizens, the City Commission of this city has just unanimously voted to begin construction at once of a large Negro housing project in the densely populated Belmont Heights section.

Big Florida Homes Site On Way Up

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—A $1,123,751 housing project, said to be the "largest Negro rental housing project . . . in the history of Jacksonville" got under construction August 22.

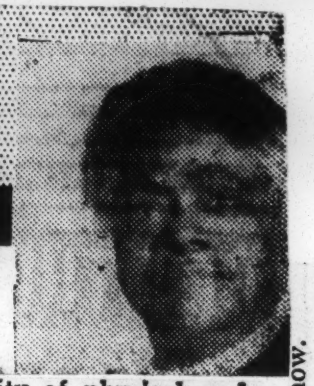
According to Russell Tinney, FHA district supervisor, "If the project proves successful as we believe it will, it will pave the way for FHA to encourage the construction here of many more such units for the Negro race."

The project which will involve no cost to taxpayers will include 206 dwelling units of two bedrooms, in two-story concrete buildings, each comprising from four to 12 units. The rental rate of the 46 will include [illegible].

The location is immediately adjacent to an elmentary school and Brewster hospital. Churches, transportation and shopping districts are close by.

Features of the new development will include paved streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and underground drainage facilities with fire-proof construction. Following the pattern of popular Baltimore row houses there will be no public halls. Exterior masonry of stucco, lawns, playgrounds and park areas will add to the beauty of the project.

MARY McLEOD Bethune



Chicago Defender

Women's Council Speaks For Federal Housing — Without Bias

Chicago, Ill.

Statement of Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, founder-president of the National Council of Negro Women, at the National Public Housing Conference, Eighteenth Annual meeting — A Report to the Nation on Housing—Wednesday, May 18, 1949, Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C.

Sat. 6-4-49

SINCE the organization of the National Council of Negro Women in 1935, it has stood with the champions of good housing. It is only natural that we should join in what we hope will prove to be the final drive for enactment of the Housing Act of 1949. 6-4-49

The 800,000 women of the Council are solidly behind me in full support of a large-scale public housing program. These women, representing key leadership in thousands of communities, urban and rural, all over the United States know too well how vital human resources of our nation are undermined by slum housing.

We see in the Housing Bill the possibility of over a million Negroes marching out of the degradation of the slums into the light of decent and sanitary homes. Such an exodus will have an incalculable effect upon the integrity of our family life and will also contribute tremendous benefits to communities, north and south.

In public housing, as in no other program, a record of equitable participation by racial minorities has been established since the inception of the PWA housing program. With but few exceptions, Negroes have participated in the planning, construction, management and occupancy of public housing projects in the South as well as in the North.

We believe that the mandate of the United States Supreme Court applies to federal and local administrators of public housing programs in every state of the nation. We accept literally the meaning of the government's brief, filed by the United States Department of Justice in the racial restrictive covenant cases, which declared that: "It is fundamental that no agency of government should participate in any action which will result in depriving any person of essential rights because of race or color or creed."

Insofar as public housing is concerned, we are convinced that the legal bases for non-discrimination are firmly established and require:

1. **That there be equitable participation of all elements of the market on the basis of need.**
2. **That absolute equality of physical and community facilities be provided.**

Beyond this aspect, we would call upon each of you who is responsible in any way for federal or local policies affecting public housing to measure any plans to effect racial segregation in public housing projects in the full light of the ultimate consequences of such action.

As you contribute to shaping the pattern of American cities, you are contributing to America's future. These cities are open to the scrutiny of the world. Residential ghettos preserve our shameful racism in brick and mortar for generations to come. It is inevitable that the governments under our democracy must come to grips with residential segregation in every section of the country. 6-4-49

Each of you who fails to strike at this evil in the field of housing is endangering the integrity and prestige of your country before the whole world.

Americans who would not think of betraying the secret of the atom bomb must come to realize that our racism is a far more devastating weapon in enemy hands.

We cannot compete with the Soviet Union for international power in a world populated predominantly with colored people so long as we can be marked as a symbol of racial intolerance.

In the interest — not of Negro Americans alone—but of the nation and democracy, every vestige of racism must be wiped out of public housing everywhere.

It is clearly the responsibility of public housing officials to lead the way.

As We See It

New Low Rent Homes And Jimcrow Don't Mix

By Abner W. Berry

Mon. 3-7-49

WHEN REPUBLICAN SENATORS like Bricker and Ives refuse to fight Jimcrow, in their actions on the housing bill, they give the bipartisan majority for appeasing the open white supremacists in both houses. These men say that they want to see Truman's housing record as it is written on the bill passed. They vow that they want to construct 810,000 low rent housing units in six years and spend a billion and a half dollars on slum clearance through loans and grants to communities. They say they are for the rtral housing program, provided in the bill, to be carried out under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, involving an appropriation of $262,500,000. That's what they say they want. That's what the bill calls for.

But are they fighting to pass a bill for the record, or are they really interested in getting a program of a slum clearance and low rent housing started? In answer to that I can say flatfootedly that no matter how many housing bills are passed, there will be no program of slum clearance unless Jimcrow housing is killed. Let us look at the

less than they have now.

Consider what almost happened in St. Louis, Mo., last November. A so-called "slum clearance" bond issue was put to referendum. If passed it would have torn down most of the Negro-occupied houses in the 11th Congressional District. But there were no provisions in the referendum for the re-housing of these thousands of families. It so developed that the Negro people had made of their ghetto a political weapon with which they could fight the conditions imposed upon them. That was "dangerous" to the old party political leaders. "Slum clearance" was their answer.

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NOW WHAT is to prevent localities, with the connivance of the federal government, from using federal grants under the Federal Housing Bill to carry out what the voters would never ratify? But that is the danger which we run if we give in to the hush-hush policy.

Let us remember that Detroit has a housing plan. And I understand that there is such a plan for New York City. None of these plans have been taken off paper. Jimcrow, and the use to which Jimcrow is put by the insurance companies and banks, stands in the way.

The Senators who try to aid the banks under the slogan of housing sure ought to feel the pressure from a great many of America's 11,000,000 homeless families. New low rent homes and Jimcrow don't mix, can't mix. Mon. 3-7-49

If we want new housing, we've got to have a housing bill free of all Jimcrow entanglements.

MARY McLEOD Bethune

Chicago Defender
6-11-49

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Statement of Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, founder-president of the National Council of Negro Women, at the National Public Housing Conference, Eighteenth Annual meeting — A Report to the Nation on Housing—Wednesday, May 18, 1949, Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C.

Sat. 6-4-49

SINCE the organization of the National Council of Negro Women in 1935, it has stood with the champions of good housing. It is only natural that we should join in what we hope will prove to be the final drive for enactment of the Housing Act of 1949. 6-4-49

The 800,000 women of the Council are solidly behind me in full support of a large-scale public housing program. These women, representing key leadership in thousands of communities, urban and rural, all over the United States know too well how vital human resources of our nation are undermined by slum housing.

We see in the Housing Bill the possibility of over a million Negroes marching out of the degradation of the slums into the light of decent and sanitary homes. Such an exodus will have an incalculable effect upon the integrity of our family life and will also contribute tremendous benefits to communities, north and south.

In public housing, as in no other program, a record of equitable participation by racial minorities has been established since the inception of the PWA housing program. With but few exceptions, Negroes have participated in the planning, construction, management and occupancy of public housing projects in the South as well as in the North.

We believe that the mandate of the United States Supreme Court applies to federal and local administrators of public housing programs in every state of the nation. We accept literally the meaning of the government's brief, filed by the United States Department of Justice in the racial restrictive covenant cases, which declared that: "It is fundamental that no agency of government should participate in any action which will result in depriving any person of essential rights because of race or color or creed."

Insofar as public housing is concerned, we are convinced that the legal bases for non-discrimination are firmly established and require:

1. That there be equitable participation of all elements of the market on the basis of need.

2. That absolute equality of physical and community facilities be provided.

Beyond this aspect, we would call upon each of you who is responsible in any way for federal or local policies affecting public housing to measure any plans to effect racial segregation in public housing projects in the full light of the ultimate consequences of such action.

As you contribute to shaping the pattern of American cities, you are contributing to America's future. These cities are open to the scrutiny of the world. Residential ghettos preserve our shameful racism in brick and mortar for generations to come. It is inevitable that the governments under our democracy must come to grips with residential segregation in every section of the country. 6-4-49

Each of you who fails to strike at this evil in the field of housing is endangering the integrity and prestige of your country before the whole world.

Americans who would not think of betraying the secret of the atom bomb must come to realize that our racism is a far more devastating weapon in enemy hands.

We cannot compete with the Soviet Union for international power in a world populated predominantly with colored people so long as we can be marked as a symbol of racial intolerance.

In the interest — not of Negro Americans alone—but of the nation and democracy, every vestige of racism must be wiped out of public housing everywhere.

It is clearly the responsibility of public housing officials to lead the way.

As Wiley Sees It
Mon. 3-7-49

New Low Rent Homes And Jimcrow Don't Mix

By Abner W. Berry

WHEN REPUBLICAN SENATORS like Bricker and Ives refuse to fight Jimcrow, in their actions on the housing bill, they give the bipartisan majority the excuse for appeasing the open white supremacists in both houses. These men say that they want to see Truman's housing record as it is written on the land values in Harlem). But, bill passed. They vow that they except for the expanding little want to construct 810,000 low dirty faces of our cities. islands of Negro oc- rent housing units in six years Mon. 3-7-49 Detroit's Negro popu- and spend a billion and a half A LARGE PART of Harlem lation still is con- dollars on slum clearance in New York is slum or tene- centrated on the through loans and grants to ment area. If the worst of these lower east side communities. They say they slums are to be destroyed, then The city are for the rtral housing pro- the present occupants will have "planned" the gram, provided in the bill, to to be housed until the low rent the area, but be carried out under the direc- houses are built. Where are these displaced persons to be tion of the Secretary of Agri- housed? Not in the already culture, involving an appropria- crammed ghetto. It is a mock- tion of $262,500,000. That's ery to speak of slum clearance what they say they want. That's in Harlem without speaking at what the bill calls for. the same time of breaking the iron ring of housing which created a Harlem in the first place.

But are they fighting to pass a bill for the record, or are they really interested in getting a program of a slum clearance and low rent housing started? In answer to that I can say flatfootedly that no matter how many housing bills are passed, there will be no program of slum clearance unless Jimcrow housing is killed. Let us look at the

planners have Negroes out of they haven't ever nor willing to buck customs and re- strictive covenants. So, with plenty and money not building in Detroit is to "white" develop- ments. Even the tricking down of deteriorating hous- ing is accompanied by all sorts of racist violence. And yet straight - faced Senators can argue that duck- ing the issue will overcome all of this. But there are not only these dangers in let-civil- ian housing-alone ca m- paign—there are the positive dan- gers that Negroes will get even less than they have now.

Consider what almost happened in St. Louis, Mo., last November. A so-called "slum clearance" bond issue was put to referendum. If passed it would have torn down most of the Negro-occupied houses in the 11th Congressional District. But there were no provisions in the referendum for the re-housing of these thousands of families. It so developed that the Negro people had made of their ghetto a political weapon with which they could fight the conditions imposed upon them. That was "dangerous" to the old party political leaders. "Slum clearance" was their answer.

NOW WHAT is to prevent localities, with the connivance of the federal government, from using federal grants under the Federal Housing Bill to carry out what the voters would never ratify? But that is the danger which we run if we give in to the hush-hush policy.

Let us remember that Detroit has a housing plan. And I understand that there is such a plan for New York City. None of these plans have been taken off paper. Jimcrow, and the use to which Jimcrow is put by the insurance companies and banks, stands in the way. 3-7-49

The Senators who try to aid the banks under the slogan of housing sure ought to feel the pressure from a great many of America's 11,000,000 homeless families. New low rent homes and Jimcrow don't mix, can't mix. Mon. 3-7-49

If we want new housing we've got to have a housing bill free of all Jimcrow entanglements.

CAYTON

Looking for a Home Is More of a Problem For Negroes Than For Any Other Group

By HORACE CAYTON

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier. — The Editors.)

THIS THING of finding a place to live is more than something. One thing that annoys me is to speak about the present housing crisis with white people and have them blithly say we too have a housing problem. Of course that's true, there's no denying it, but what the brother is up against is plain murder.

Mr. Cayton

In this piece I am talking about the ordinary guy who works for a salary, has a wife and kids and just wants to get a roof over his head. I'm not speaking about the Negro real estate speculators who are just as bad as white real estate speculators and perhaps a little worse because they know all the angles. I have seen many a corrupt fortune built by these operators at the expense of black flesh. I am for fighting them just as hard as I would any other unscrupulous landlord. But I have got plenty of sympathy for "John Doaks" who has to be a landlord in order to have a home.

THE PATTERN is much the same all over the country, but I'll describe what I found in Brooklyn as a prime example. It is impossible to find an apartment to rent, therefore the Negro community is expanding out into a solidly Jewish neighborhood. As Negroes move in and Jews move out, you don't have the same violence that you would find in Chicago's Polish and Irish neighborhoods. It is an orderly procedure.

The houses Negroes have to buy are over-evaluated. Further they are forced to buy at the peak of a real estate boom. Then take the nature of the houses which further add to the difficulty. Most of the homes were occupied by middle class and upper middle class families and although they are three stories they were constructed for one family.

ALL THIS adds up to high mortgages, high interest charges and the necessity to convert the homes so that portions can be rented out either to families or individual roomers. Rents are high, but it is not that the usual fellow is trying to make a killing, but rather that these extraordinarily high charges make it necessary for him to rent out every inch of space at dear prices.

And what does this do to the community? Well . . . plenty. All public facilities are overcrowded —schools, libraries, parks—as the population is often tripled when Negroes move in. As the community takes on the characteristics of a rooming house area there is less responsibility for cleanliness of streets. With roomers too, there is not the selectiveness of tenants. When one has notes to meet at the bank one can't ask character reference from every tenant.

• • •

THEN THERE is the deterioration of the property itself. A room deteriorates more rapidly with three people using it for one year than it would with one residing in it for three years, especially if the people are tenants and have no interest in the property. So with the expansion of the Negro community comes blight, overcrowding and ofttimes the influx of a semi-criminal element.

None of this is John Doak's fault. He was just looking for a place to live and raise his children. It is all a vicious circle arising out of our ghetto system of residential segregation as well as the general lack of housing facilities.

How patient can a people be to have witnessed the gigantic effort which America put forth to maintain this country as the "arsenal of democracy" and then see her fail so miserably to provide homes for her own citizens is a galling and humiliating experience.

Obviously the only answer for the majority of Negroes is public housing. However, our attempts to obtain decent housing has been consistently blocked by the real estate lobby which has stifled public housing and through gentlemen's agreements forced Negroes into black ghettoes.

Housing Bill Awaits OK by Truman

WASHINGTON— (AP) —Congress approved the Administration's gigantic Housing Bill—a nationwide project to help provide better homes for "millions of families." It awaits President Truman's signature.

House and Senate rapidly passed the bill by voice vote after compromising their differences.

The Government has promised quick action.

FEDERAL Housing Administrator Raymond M. Foley has scheduled a "rapid start" on the low-rent public housing feature. He wants 50,000 units under way within 12 months.

Slum clearance will take more time, he said.

Final passage gave President Truman the first major victory for his domestic program in this Congress. The bill had strong Republican support in the Senate, which had approved similar legislation in 1946 and 1948 only to see it die in the House.

The bill is estimated to cost from $10,000,000,000 up over a period of decades. It provides for 810,000 public housing units. These would be available to low income families by aid of Government rent subsidies.

IT CALLS FOR a vast slum clearance program, help in farm housing and research to work out cheaper ways to build houses.

The legislation authorizes:

1—Federal contributions up to $308,000,000 annually for 40 years to subsidize rents of low-income families, thus enabling local housing authorities to build the 810,000 housing units in the next six years.

Local authorities would seelct the tenants and set the rents. The Federal aid would make up the difference between the rent and the cost.

2—A five-year slum-clearance plan, the Government paying a third and local communities the rest. It calls for $1,000,000,000 in loans and $500,000,000 in grants to fulfill the objectives.

3—A farm housing program of loans to owners of self-sustaining farms unable to get loans elsewhere; loans and Federal aids to owners whose farms are not at the time self-sustaining, and loans for minor improvements where farms cannot be made self-sustaining.

4—An extension of 60 days of temporary Government authority to insure private loans up to $2,500 for repairing and remodeling; a similar extension of mortgage insurance for small homes costing up to $5,000, and a $500,000,000 increase in the amount of mortgage insurance the Government can issue for single-family and multiple dwelling projects.

5—A research program for cutting building costs.

Race Relations Staff Sees Local Level Tifts

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — Although the federal housing act authorizing 810,000 public housing units and other plans for building new homes has passed, the fight for housing has not ended, the race relations staff of the Federal Housing authority advised last week.

The big fight will be staged on local levels, the race relations staff warned. Minority groups must get in on the ground floor of housing activities in their local areas. They must be sure they get into private housing developments through the slum clearance plan as well as in the public projects.

In a public statement to minority groups, the staff said:

"The President's signature on the housing act of 1949 climaxes a long and earnest effort of the American people to gain a comprehensive housing program . . .

LOCAL FIGHT

"We wish we could tell you now to relax and forget about housing. But the real job at the 'grass root's actually begins with legislative authorization of the housing programs. While the home builders and real estate lobby failed to block the national legislation, they overtly threaten now to obstruct the slum clearance and public housing programs through vigorous opposition in each locality.

To make sure that minority groups got their share of new housing the staff advised the following steps:

"1. To get in on the ground floor of city and project planning, preferably through representation on official city planning, land acquisition, and redevelopment bodies.

"2. To effect inclusion of eligible racial minority families in all developments, private or public, constructed as a part of the redevelopment program. It will be especially important to gain admission of minority group occupants of redeveloped areas into any privately constructed housing on those same sites since the legislation makes no provision guaranteeing this privilege. We must see to it that slum clearance does not become Negro clearance."

Leaders of the race relations staff also asked for minority representation on boards and staffs of local housing authorities. Good housing, they said, is essential to American democracy.

TO HELP GROUP

Emphasizing the fact that they will help minority groups in their efforts to gain good housing, the leaders concluded.

"Yes, we have won a great battle but the war is yet to be won. The Congress of the United States, a few states and cities have provided us with the armaments, but it's up to us to use them to wipe out bad housing in the city and on the farm.

"As the relentless efforts to replace slums and blight with recent and wholesome housing continues, every resource of the racial relations service will be at your command."

Top Negroes on the national racial relations staff are Frank Horne, B. T. McGraw, and Corienne Robinson. Regional leaders include Franklin Thorne, William Dabney, George Nesbitt, George Washington, Robert Pitts, Clarence Johnson, A. Maceo Smith, A. L. Thompson, DeHart Hubbard, and Edward Rutledge.

Dangerous View of Segregation Noted in Talk of Public Housing

New York Herald Tribune
New York, New York

Walter White Decries Suggestions It Be Permitted to Make Sure of Appropriations

Jan 3-6-49

By Walter White

THERE have been dangerously superficial comments during the last few days, some by sincere friends of public housing legislation, which need to be examined by thoughtful Americans. The statements have been to the effect that forbidding racial or other segregation in housing built from public tax funds would cause defeat of the legislation and would be otherwise disastrous.

Such statements were to be expected from Southern Senators like Allen J. Ellender, Democrat, of Louisiana, even though Senator Ellender joined with Senators Robert F. Wagner, Democrat, of New York, and Robert A. Taft, Republican, of Ohio, in sponsoring a housing bill in the Eightieth Congress. They are somewhat more startling from the lips of a more intelligent and liberal Southern Senator like John J. Sparkman, Democrat, of Alabama. Such outbursts are not at all unexpected from organizations like the Ku-Klux Klan and some real estate associations which are opposed to public housing anyway.

But it is most inexplicable to see the alarm among many others who have for years worked faithfully for public housing and slum clearance. One can easily understand their eagerness to get such legislation passed by the Eighty-first Congress. But it is somewhat disheartening to see some of them willing to compromise on this basic issue at the expense of that portion of the American population, 14,000,000 Negroes, which is in direst need of housing because of age-old discrimination in the form of restrictive covenants, city ordinances and state laws, the machinations of real estate agents and mortgage companies and, in less subtle ways, the attacks by mobs upon Negroes who sought to escape the ghetto.

LET us examine the facts. In the first place those who are willing and even eager to throw the Negro once again to the housing wolves demonstrate a distressing lack of faith in the American people. Even though they have been the victims of unrelenting and vicious propaganda with respect to the effect of Negro occupancy on housing values, there are many more Americans opposed to housing and other segregation than the faint-hearted appear to believe exist. It is these more enlightened Americans who in turn have influence with Northern Senators and Congressmen who can be relied upon to support non-segregated housing. More and more of them are awakening to the fact that the Negro taxpayer is also required by his government to pay an equal share of the funds with which this housing will be erected. They would oppose any American citizen in turn being denied equality.

The second fact which is ignored in this issue is that Negroes and Whites live in the same neighborhoods, often next door to each other, in more cities and towns in the United States than are herded into racial ghettos. As a matter of fact, there is more of the ghetto pattern in many Northern cities than in some Southern ones. Thus non-segregation is not a theory but an actuality, although public attention more often is focused on a segregated Harlem than on non-segregated areas in other parts of New York City.

A SOMEWHAT analogous situation existed only a few years ago in the matter of professional and graduate education for Negroes in Southern states. Less than a decade ago it is doubtful that there were more than a handful of Americans who believed they would live to see the day when racial segregation could be abolished in the South. But because there were those of courage who refused to compromise and, even more important, had faith in the inherent decency of Americans, when the facts were presented, there are Negro students today in the universities of Arkansas, Oklahoma, West Virginia and Delaware.

Jan-3-6-49

The question, therefore, reduces itself to whether Americans are going to support the principles of democratic housing or a slightly refurbished ghetto for minorities. In the matter of city ordinances, state laws and restrictive covenants to enforce segregation, the United States Supreme Court has unequivocally ruled against these discriminatory practices. In the light of these precedents, there might be an interesting legal question concerning the right of Congress to appropriate public money for housing or any other benefits to which all Americans, irrespective of race, creed, color or national origin, do not have equal access.

The ink of the United States' signature along with those of forty-seven other nations to an international Declaration of Human Rights has hardly dried. Refusal by the Congress to practice here in the United States the principles of equality in that document would again expose it to charges of hypocrisy and dishonor. Having already given critics and enemies of America a fabulous amount of material as the basis for anti-American propaganda, it just isn't common sense at this critical period of world history for the United States again to write inequality into legislation. Nor is it wise for so-called liberals in the field of housing to be willing to sell down the river of housing discrimination a tenth of the nation's population.

Jan-3-6-49

HOUSING BILL'S HOPES GAIN AFTER SENATORS SEE CAPITAL'S SLUMS

46a

Lawmakers Tour Squalid Area Within Sight Of Dome On Nation's Capitol

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn

'OPERATION' HELD NEEDED

Douglas Says Cities Can't Pay For The Removal Of Blighted Districts, Must Have Help From Government

Wed 4-20-49

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Senators took a slumming tour Tuesday—right in the Capitol's backyard—as they weighed a multi-billion dollar housing bill designed to help wipe out "blighted areas" and to build 810,000 low rent dwellings as public projects.

Senator Douglas (D., Ill.) served as a "guide" for his colleagues. First he showed photographs of squalid housing accommodations located right in the heart of Washington, only a few hundred feet from where the lawmakers sat.

Passage By Today?

Afterward, both Democratic and Republican leaders called for earliest passage, possibly Wednesday, of the long-range measure. Sentiment for the measure gained measurably after the tour.

Before leaving for the hour-long inspection, Douglas told the Senate that slum areas here and elsewhere in the country are a "moral cancer, a health hazard and an economic loss."

Slum clearance, he said, calls for a "major surgical operation" for which cities cannot meet the bill unless assisted by the Government. Under the housing program, the Government would make available $1,000,000,000 for loans, with an additional $500,000,000 for grants over a five year period.

The bill's other major provisions are:

1. Construction of 810,000 public housing units in the next six years with the Government contributing up to $308,000,000 a year to finance the projects over a 40-year period.
2. A four-year, $262,500,000 program of building farm homes.

Slums Hold Attention

The slum clearance section, however, was the center of Senate debate before and after Douglas' graphic presentation of living conditions.

The four men who accompanied Douglas — Senators Baldwin (R., Conn.), Green (D., R. I.), Ferguson (R., Mich.) and Morse (R., Ore.) —smelled the stench and saw the filth of alley dwellings in which whites and negroes, closely packed together, live within sight of the Capitol dome.

The once-fashionable Southwest Section now houses about 30,000 people, equally divided between whites and negroes, said Police Capt. Paul L. Barnes, who accompanied the group.

Barnes estimated there were a couple of thousand places elsewhere in the city where exist the same conditions of filth and unsanitary accommodations.

At one place—ironically named Pleasant Court — the senators ducked through a doorway which led into an alleyway littered with broken bottles, tin cans, garbage and other refuse. In the midst of the debris was an outdoor toilet.

Condemned, But So What?

Police Sergeant Ernest Fuller remarked "We found a man frozen to death in one of these toilets last winter."

Two of the dilapidated houses had condemnation notices posted on them. But Fuller said he wasn't at all sure they would be forced out.

"People are still living in some houses that were condemned when I first came on the force 20 years ago," he commented.

When he returned from the tour, Morse told the Senate of a room "not larger than 12 by 12 where 10 people live and sleep. if you can call it living." He said the family obtained water from a faucet in a backyard "littered with refuse."

The Senate Housing Bill

New York Herald Tribune
New York, New York

The Senators' tour of the Washington slums says about all there is to say on the need for the long-delayed national housing program. When members of Congress may walk only a hundred yards from their offices to find families living after family crowded into unsanitary and condemned buildings because there is no other place for them to live, the why of aid to housing is plain beyond argument.

Jan-4-21-49

The Senate, recognizing that conditions such as this will be remedied only by a national policy and program of action, has twice before passed a comprehensive housing bill. Through two shifts of party leadership it has put aside politics to respond to the overweening public need. The foundation provisions of the bill now under debate are those worked and re-worked over a period of years by some of the most capable men on both sides of the Senate. These same men have again hammered out agreement, compromising the views of the two parties, enlisting the sponsorship of eleven Democrats, eleven Republicans.

Thus the goal of the bill's public housing provisions—1,050,000 units in seven years on the Administration side, 600,000 in six years on the Republican side—now becomes 810,000 units over six years. This is a fair compromise and a realistic goal. The main reliance on private enterprise to meet the bulk of housing needs is still there, with ample safeguards against putting public housing into destructive competition with private. Urban redevelopment sections of the old bill have been changed to meet a concrete situation in most cities, where the housing shortage itself makes slum clearance and orderly city planning impossible if rebuilding must be limited to slum-cleared land. The measure rests responsibility in the local authorities for initiating and developing the local programs. It retains grants for research essential to a long-range attack on building costs, outmoded codes and instability in the housing industry.

In sum, this is as good a bill as the most earnest men in Congress, concentrating on housing needs and seeking the most hopeful means for meeting them, could devise. What we hope and urge is that the Senate will pass this good bill with such a strong demonstration of unanimity that opposition in the House, twice successful in obstruction, must this year crumble away.

Thur-4-21-49

Bricker Champions Negro?

Baltimore Sun
Baltimore, Md.

OHIO'S STATUESQUE SENATOR JOHN BRICKER has been posing as the great champion of the Negro by demanding that segregation be outlawed in all public housing projects.

But what the public didn't realize is that Bricker toned down his own anti-segregation amendment to the Republican-Taft compromise. Conflicted with the real estate lobby. Bricker's original anti-segregation amendment would have cut off federal funds, including FHA loans, for any segregated housing project. But when the real estate boys saw this, they realized Bricker would cut off one of their most lucrative sources of money—loans from the Federal Housing Administration. So they hotfooted it to Bricker's office and had him change his amendment so that it abolished segregation for public housing, but not FHA-financed housing.

Real Housing Distress Confounds Pious Theory

Courier Journal
Louisville Kentucky
Sun-2-13-49

NO IDEA should be dismissed that helps along discussion of the serious and sometimes tragic problem of housing in this country, to bring it home, in Louisville. Even if it apparently is as radical as the proposal by TIGHE WOODS, Federal Housing Expediter, it should be considered.

Mr. WOODS suggests to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress that a brake might be put on building single-unit houses for sale and attention turned to swift construction of apartments for rent. A great many people, bound to a home-ownership tradition, may protest. But the idea highlights a condition of which those who are comfortably housed know all too little. The truths of the case are often distorted by the insistent propaganda of groups like the U. S. Savings and Loan League that professes to see only evil in public housing.

Members and officials of Louisville's Municipal Housing Commission, however, know a great deal about it. They know, and from time to time have reported, such things as the applications of 4,366 veterans for shelter in the temporary project at Bowman Field, although every unit there is filled. They know that thousands of these applicants, though many have from one to four children each, have an average salary of $45 to $50 a week. Thus they are not eligible for public housing, even if it were available, because they make more than the rules of admission say they should. Yet they cannot afford to pay the prevailing private rents without desperate straining.

They could tell you of many a case like this: The widow of a World War I veteran, with two minor children and an older daughter (herself a World War II widow with two children), was evicted from crowded but cheap rooms, and now in desperation must pay $75 rent out of a total income of $181 a month from pensions and insurance payments.

There are the cases of 272 white families and 263 Negro families who, with incomes even lower than this, are eligible for public housing—but cannot get it because there isn't enough. Not so long ago the War Housing Center reported some 18,000 Louisville families doubled up in single-family dwellings, "an exceedingly large number so overcrowded as to be a distinct and definite menace to the health of not only themselves but of the entire community." There are cases like that of 14 persons in one room on Sixth Street; of 40 to 50 persons in another shack forced to use a single outside toilet and hydrant. The items may be multiplied, as the records prove, a hundred times.

To talk of these huddled thousands as prospective customers for houses for sale is a mockery. To say piously, as MORTON BODFISH'S U. S. Savings and Loan League does in fancy brochures, that "the privately owned American home is the safeguard of American liberties," is shocking in light of the facts of depressed and crowded masses. The great argument is advanced by these opponents of public housing that no public program can relieve the shortage. All it would do, they insist, would be to siphon labor and materials from one type to another.

At least the Housing Expediter has challenged this point of view. Whatever other arguments might be raised against the proposal by Mr. WOODS, at least he has stated the case. That there was found to be an immediate unfilled need of around 1,000,000 rental units in 91 cities six weeks ago, is strong evidence to support it. Sun-2-13-49

Progress Against A Problem

Ordinarily *The News* does not print anonymous contributions to the "Voice of the People" column, but sometimes interesting and intelligent letters come in unsigned. Such a letter has recently been received calling attention to a matter of housing which particularly affects Negroes. The letter comments first on the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions under which many Negro people of Birmingham live. It is a situation which all intelligent citizens have long known and deplored. Then the letter calls attention to the fact that houses occupied by Negroes are being condemned by the city's health authorities as unfit for residential purposes because of poor sanitary facilities. Negro tenants are required to move out in many instances and the houses are then demolished, thus adding to the housing shortage for low-income groups.

The paper's informant then continues:

"The only alternative is for them to move in with other families which are already overcrowded. It is only too evident that communicable diseases are thus made increasingly worse daily. One- and two-room houses are now frequently occupied by 10, 12 or more people. For the health and general welfare of us all it is more than urgent that an organized movement be started at once to alleviate such conditions. . . . We are mindful of the fact that certain residential subdivisions for the colored people are becoming available but let us not fool ourselves into thinking that these dwellings are within the financial reach of the great masses of Negroes." Fri 6-10-49

Here are some facts:

In 1946 the City Health Department, recognizing that sanitary conditions in slum areas were a danger to the health of the whole community, began a survey. It drew a circle one mile in diameter from the city hall and made a house-to-house survey of the area with a description of every residence in the section. It found many appalling conditions and set itself to remedying them as fast as conditions would permit.

Since Jan. 1, 1947, 493 houses have been demolished in the one-mile area. New plumbing installations have been built in 1,237 dwelling units. As of this week, work on such installation is going on in 56 units. There are today 84 outstanding notices which require that the sanitary facilities be improved within 45 days of notice; if such work is not started in that period, the houses will be condemned and and demolished. Families in 72 units are now under notice to vacate. They have 30 days in which to get out after receiving such notice.

Almost all of these figures apply only to the area south of First Avenue. A few of the demolished houses were north of the dividing line in the one-mile radius. The situation on the near-Southside is much better than it was two years ago, and the work will go on mostly in the near-Northside from now on. It will take less than the two and a half years to clean up the Northside area, because now both labor and materials are available for the necessary modernization. Fri. 6-10-49

When the area within a mile radius of the city hall has been finished, the Health Department will extend its operations to all other parts of the city. But the officers in charge say that just about half of the bad conditions existed in the area now being worked on. The problem in all the rest of the city is no greater, it is said, than that currently being tackled in the congested near-downtown section.

What happens to the occupants of the houses condemned and torn down? The Health Department is aware that often they find it difficult to get new living quarters and it admits that overcrowding may temporarily result. It points out the increased building of Negro housing, but recognizes that not enough units are going up. It believes, however, the situation is being remedied and that another couple of years will bring the shortage to an end. By then the city will be cleaner than it has been in years. Fri. 6-10-49

The Health Department has complete legal authority to carry on its slum clearance work. It has never been challenged by a court case. Most owners of real estate occupied by low-income Negro tenants have been thoroughly cooperative.

The situation which our correspondent deplores is present, but substantial progress is being made in dealing with it.

Housing OK Skips Ban on Segregation

Detroit Free Press
Detroit Michigan

WASHINGTON—(U.P.)—The Senate Banking Committee approved a bipartisan, long-range housing bill Thursday.

It refused to write in a proviso banning racial segregation.

The compromise bill, approved by a subcommittee Wednesday, calls for 810,000 Government-financed low-rent public housing units over the next six years.

It also provides for a $1,500,000,000 slum-clearance program and a $262,500,000 Rural housing program. Fri-2-25-49

THE FULL COMMITTEE voted 9 to 3 for the legislation after defeating, 10 to 2, the anti-segregation amendment backed by Senators Cain (R., Wash) and Bricker (R., O.)

Supporters of the bill argued that its chances of passage would be killed by writing in the racial clause, but Bricker served notice he will carry the fight to the floor.

Chairman Maybank (D., S. C.) said the measure will be introduced in the Senate Friday with bipartisan sponsorship.

The bill is a compromise between an Administration plan to build 1,050,000 public housing units over seven years, and a bill sponsored by 14 Republican senators to provide 600,000 units over six years.

Negro Housing

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Editor Constitution: My heartiest congratulations on the current series of articles by Clark Howell, Jr. He is writing about problems that directly concern a third of the people of this city and, indirectly, concern every one of us. True, there is little that is new about the high incidence of crime among Negroes or the fact that most of them are poorly educated and are jammed into the worst slum housing, if you could call it housing, in the city. But the mere fact that these things have been with us since long before most of us were born doesn't justify the indifference that seems to be common among so many people. We need to have these matters brought to our attention again and again. Problems are never solved by ignoring them or refusing to admit that they exist. On the contrary, recognition of and admission that a problem or, rather, problems do exist is the first step toward a solution.

mar. 8-1-49

I have a job that takes me into all parts of Atlanta, including the various Negro communities, and I want to go on record as saying that there are thousands upon thousands of Negroes living in conditions of indescribable squalor. Most white people know this, but they make it their business to stay out of that part of town or, if they MUST go through there, they just ignore what they see and try to go through as rapidly as possible. I hope that Mr. Howell will take some pictures in some of the alleys that I've seen and plaster them on the front page of the paper. If I owned a valuable mule, I wouldn't stable him in some of the rotting-down shacks that poor Negroes have to live in.

Housing

And don't blame the individual Negro; he doesn't like it any better than he mule would. He'd move to better quarters if he could; but where can he go? There IS no place to go—he or she has to stay right where they are, like it or not.

And if anybody thinks that any of this is untrue or an exaggeration, tell 'em to go look for themselves.

L. S. JOHNSON, JR.

Atlanta.

City Council Approves Apartments

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Wed.

10-19-49

Overrides Planning Commission

Housing

The Atlanta City Council Monday put its stamp of approval on a permit for the erection of two 16-unit apartment houses, each with three rooms and bath, on a 250-foot frontage on the North side of the intersection of Mary and Hobson streets.

In giving the 'go signal' to the construction the Council overrode the Planning Commission which had turned down the petition by William T. Hart to erect homes which will house Negro families.

The Council voted to extend the boulevard whiteway lighting system out West Hunter Street from its present terminus near the Booker T. Washington High School.

ELKS CLUB PERMIT

The Elks Club, 315 Auburn Avenue, was given authorization for a permit to sell beer and wine over a protest by Ald. Ed. A. Gillam, chairman of the City Council Police Committee.

Gilliam pointed out that Elks Club is located too close to a church.

Approval for the permit came after City Attorney Jack Savage, under question, said the location violates an Atlanta Ordinance as to distance from churches, but added the City Council could grant it if it desired.

Midnight Halloween shows can be staged in Atlanta on October 31. The Council approves performances for this occasion.

Housing (Georgia)

The Northside Housing Protest

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Some Northside residents protested to the Zoning Board about granting a permit for a Negro apartment house on Plaster Avenue.

We think the protest was valid.

There are about 100 Negro families there now. There also is a Negro church and a Negro school. It is, in short, already zoned for single unit housing for Negroes. It is not zoned for apartment houses.

We think the protest was valid because there is not room there for expansion. A "pocket" would have been crowded. It would have been a condition which would worsen for both races. So, the protest was proper.

11-20-49

But we thought Planning Board Member Albert was right. He said there was enough leadership represented in the protest to come forward with some positive suggestions instead of negative protests. We agree.

It is time we began to get together on this problem. It is estimated Atlanta will have a metropolitan population of about 800,000 in another ten years. Of that about 200,000 will be Negro.

Yet we keep on protesting requests for Negro housing. What we do is allow pockets to develop. We permit little patches here and there.

Housing

They will expand. They will produce friction as whites sell and Negroes buy.

There isn't any reason to wait for that.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

We suggest and urge that the city, county and the Planning Boards get together with Negro developers and find a section of land where a Negro development can be placed. There are areas where that is possible. If we do this we can relieve existing tensions and cushion the future.

If we don't we will assure ourselves of trouble and bitterness.

Getting together is fairly simple. We hope the officials will do it.

AT RACIAL HOUSING HEARING—Members of the Georgia Real Estate Commission, left to right: Harry Boyce, Columbus; Chairman Leo Griffin, Savannah, and L. C. Pitts, Atlanta, listen to testimony in charges against Atlanta Negro real estate dealers that they misrepresented facts in selling white residential property on Mozley Place, S. W., to Negroes. Mrs. Ed F. Turner, right, one of the owners who offered her property for sale to Negroes, testifies for the defense. The Commission dismissed one case, took another under advisement.

Constitution Staff Photos—Carl Dixon

One Real Estate Charge Dropped by Commission

By ALBERT RILEY

The Georgia Real Estate Commission dismissed a charge against one Atlanta Negro real estate firm yesterday and took under advisement accusations against another Negro real estate dealer charged with misrepresenting facts in selling white residential property to Negroes.

Hearing on a third similar case against a white real estate man was postponed until March 23. The dealers' licenses were involved in all three complaints.

The charge against the Negro firm of Alexander-Calloway Real Estate, represented at the hearing by Max McLennon, was dismissed.

Only one witness was heard in this case. Robert Ritchie, who bought a residence on Mozley Place, S. W., in a white neighborhood, testified that the Alexander-Calloway Company did not misrepresent facts and told him white houses on each side had been sold to Negroes.

The other accused Negro, J. H. Calhoun, a member of the State Republican Central Committee, had tougher sledding in the day-long arguments.

Geneva Jones Allen and her husband, Wesley Allen, Negroes, who bought an adjacent house on Mozley Place, through Calhoun, testified that Calhoun told them the entire block of white homes was "going colored."

Wesley Allen said they later learned that white residents of the block objected to Negroes moving into the area, and said "I wouldn't have put a dime in it if I had known of the objections beforehand."

Calhoun denied the allegations and said he told the Allens he had "listings" only on three white-owned houses in the block. Calhoun testified that the white owners themselves called him to list their property for sale.

He was backed in this contention by the three white property owners, Mrs Margaret Hall, Mrs. Ed F. Turner and Mrs. John P. Ogletree, defense witnesses.

Mrs. Turner said she tried to sell her property to white people but failed, then called in Calhoun. All three women said they wanted to sell and move away because of a Negro house under construction across the street.

The only objections she heard from other white people living on the block, she said, came from R. A. Allen, who admitted earlier that he did not own the house he lived in.

"Mr. Allen made threats and ugly, nasty talk," she testified, "and said the Ku Klux would come down there."

Calhoun admitted that he had been in consultation with white people seeking to effect a solution to the encroachment of Negro residents on the block. When the efforts failed, he said, he took formal listings on the property. He denied an accusation by Allen that he had told Allen he had bought five houses on the block.

The defense brought in several prospective Negro purchasers of homes in the block, who testified that Calhoun did not misrepresent facts to them.

Other defense testimony was repeatedly ruled out as "irrelevant and immaterial" by Chairman Leo Griffin, of the Real Estate Commission, as the defense sought to prove there was no objection from other white owners on the block. The objections stemmed mainly from outside that block.

The defense did manage to elicit from Wesley Allen, one of the State's principal witnesses, that Allen had no proof of white objections on that block, and that Allen's grounds for believing there were objections were based principally on what he had been told by Joe Wallace, a white contractor.

Raising numerous objections to the testimony of defense witnesses, Assistant Attorney General Robert Addleton charged such testimony was "offered for no purpose except to make a constitutional point and attempt to show that this is a racial problem.

"The only thing we are dealing with in this case," Addleton continued, "is whether or not the defendant misrepresented facts in this sale."

Addleton charged Calhoun with "pussyfooting and maneuvering" in an effort to create a Negro neighborhood out of a white neighborhood.

Defense Attorneys Stephens Mitchell and Russell G. Turner frequently ran afoul Chairman Griffin's rulings as Griffin sustained the prosecution on nearly every objection.

The defense finally gave up in attempts to introduce character witnesses late in the day as Chairman Griffin sought to confine the evidence strictly to the sale of the one piece of property to Geneva Jones Allen.

Griffin repeatedly told defense lawyers the Commission was not a court of law but an investigating body concerned only with the question of whether Calhoun had misrepresented facts. The Commission, he declared, was making no attempt to decide on the rights of Negroes to buy white property.

Woman Warned

Another House Bombed in Ga.

ATLANTA, Ga.—A house owned by Mrs. Rose Torrence, a beautician, at 369 Ashby Street, S. W. near the corner of Sells Avenue was bombed last week-end, adding another chapter to the interracial housing battle of Atlanta's West side.

The blast was heard approximately a mile away and brought crowds of people to the scene. The plaster walls of the two-story structure, which was being redecorated, were shattered by the explosion. Splinters were sent through the air into adjoining houses. A white man, Georgia Simmons, was cut about the foot when one of the windows of his dwelling was blown out by the explosion. Police had been patrolling the area for several days. Mrs. Torrence is said to have received threat calls and to have been visited by white men who warned her not to move into the house formerly occupied by whites. The area has figured in housing violence and troubles for the last several years.

Mayor Agrees To Appoint Committee On Problem

Atlanta's bottleneck of expanded Negro housing was eyed critically in a conference at the Mayor's office Friday

and resulted in an agreement by the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce to appoint a committee of leading citizens to study possible solutions to the problem.

The conference was attended by the Mayor: Elbert Tuttle, president of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce; C. L. Harper, president of the local branch NAACP and Warren R. Cochrane, executive secretary of the Butler Street YMCA.

Mr. Tuttle said he would name the committee and was promised full support and assistance by the Mayor in seeking ways and means of opening up new housing frontiers for the expanding Negro population.

REALIZATION ACUTE

The Mayor said in view of the mass dislocation of Negro families caused by the new superhighway and other developments, there is an acute realization that more living quarters be supplied such persons.

The recent outbreak of racial friction that developed when Negroes migrated in the Mozley Place vicinity stirred the Mayor to appoint a Negro and white committee to work toward some peaceable solution to the problem. It appeared that the agreement reached by the committees did not work out as planned.

FRICTION RECALLED

A subsequent bombing occurred at a Negro-owned home on Southwest Ashby Street when the owner was reported to have made plans to move into the house. This house is located in a "borderline" territory that has ben subjected to recurring flares of terrorism aimed at thwarting encroachment by Negroes.

The other "borderline" territory of Westside Negroes is in the North Avenue vicinity. It, too, stirred with racal agitation upon the migration of Negroes.

An overall picture of the situation shows that Westside Negroes are faced with white barriers on 3 of four principal directions. They are kept from expanding in the fourth direction by downtown Atlanta.

Negro Veterans Mobilize To Aid Housing Problems

The Fulton County Commission lent a sympathetic ear to a plea from spokesmen representing 127 Negro war veterans of Atlanta who are seeking assistance in an attempt to relieve the acute housing shortage in this area.

After organizing a non-profit organization known as Urban Ville, Inc., the veterans consulted the commission and made it known that they wish to buy from the County all except a 100-foot strip of 48 acres of county property near West Lake Avenue and Simpson Street. The 100-foot strip would be converted into a park and serve as a barrier between the Negroes and white residents.

The commission interested in the proposal designed to help solve the housing problem among Negroes which has been magnified by tearing down and condemning of hundreds of Negro houses, called a conference with leaders involved in the section sought by the veterans. The leaders will include representatives from Grove Park community, Fulton County Administrators of Planning Commission, Fulton County Manager and a committee from Urban Ville, Inc. They will decide what steps will be taken in relieving the housing problems.

In a petition submitted to the commission, the veterans pointed out, "This tract is most suitable for development by this group because it is surrounded on ' boundaries, by areas presently owned and, or occupied by Negroes, and thus permits logical, practical and economically sound development of the Metropolitan area."

The veteran group, seeking to avoid friction, has been carefully screened and has been promised financial backing by two-lending institutions approved by FHA.

Other groups backing the veterans and who signed the petition include the Atlanta Urban League, Atlanta Business and Trade Association, Dixie Hills Political and Civic Club, American Legion Post Number One, Atlanta Baptist Ministers Union, and Citizens Democratic Club of Fulton County.

No Place To Go

"Where can we go when we have no place to go?"

That was the pathetic question posed by families residing in the path of the new super highway when interviewed by an Atlanta World reporter Wednesday. The question sums up the dilemma and dramatizes the serious problem of inadequate housing for thousands of Atlanta Negroes.

The building boom that has eased the housing shortage for those of a more fortunate financial status has not touched the grave situation that confronts the masses of the people—the low income groups, into which classification falls the majority of Negro families.

The pitiful question voiced by John H. Bailey, who even now lives with his family of eight cramped into two rooms. must be faced and answered by someone. It is not alone a problem of the individual John Bailey to solve. It is a problem for the society in which John Bailey lives. To the extent that all the John Baileys suffer, the society and its leaders, white and black alike, must stand indicted for gross negligence.

The ecological development of Atlanta has placed Negroes and poor whites into a "poverty ring" around the central business section of the city. The influx of rural labor during and after the war, the increased birth rate, and the industrialization and march of Progress in our city, has aggravated the problem.

It is not the fault of the John Baileys that their houses must be torn down to make way for a super highway and a greater Atlanta; they are not to blame if parks, factories and warehouses replace their humble homes; they are not responsible for the slums in which they live, and belated efforts to minimize slum conditions by condemning and tearing down substandard houses.

Intelligent planning and foresight could have prevented the conditions. A housing program could have been worked out to go along concurrently with the demolition programs. Such appears not to have been the case, and is to be regretted. Such is "spilt milk" now, however, and the question is, what of the present and the immediate future?

Mrs. Ruby McClendon Curlin, tenant selection officer for the Negro housing projects, informs us that as of today there are 10,069 applicants on the waiting lists of the University, John Hope, John Eagan, Herndon, and Henry Grady Homes. The public housing officials are no longer even taking applications.

Most of the Negroes are renters, but even the fortunate few who are able to buy, find extreme racial tensions, as evidenced by threats and bombings, prevent them from moving into more adequate housing—still trapped with "no place to go."

It is a reflection on the city's leadership, political and commercial, that would allow such conditions to develop And it is an even greater reflection to sit idly by and do nothing to alleviate the situation. Something must be done, and speedily. Some type of temporary housing, if not permanent, must be provided for displaced families. Some type of long-range. low-cost, permanent housing must be planned and undertaken immediately. This housing must be designed for the people who need it most—the families whose annual incomes fall below the $3,000 mark. They must have homes that rent or sell at a price they can afford to pay on a monthly basis.

"Where can we go when we have no place to go?" Someone must answer the question now! But who?

Something Constructive, At Last

The Atlanta Chamber of Commerce is to be commended for its foresight and leadership in initiating steps toward solution of the acute problem of Negro housing in Atlanta." As a result of a conference in Mayor Hartsfield's office here Friday, plans have been evolved out of which a committee of leading Negro and white citizens will study the problem with a view toward relieving the pressure. Mayor Hartsfield has promised the full support of his office behind this effort.

The announcement of this concrete effort to meet a situation with intelligent planning and practical common sense will come as cheering news to Negro leaders with the imperative of maintaining balance and prosions among Negroes, harrassed to the breaking point trouble-makers and rabble-rousers who seem to have else to contribute to the solution of the promblem. It certainly will be good news to the hundreds of families dged from their homes by reason of the new super way.

Now that the Mayor's office has become concerned by ng to make land available, there ought to be speedy and ive progress made in this direction. For in the last ysis, the city is primarily obligated to provide the inve for housing for its people. And the plain, inescapa crue is, Negro citizens are the victims of rapidly exing city developments, over-charging landlords and sharks.

Negro Veterans Housing Plan

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta Georgia
Jun 4-10-49

Any average discussion of racial problems usually brings up a statement that Negroes pay few taxes and rarely try to do anything for themselves. This is not a sound argument, as the tax digest will show. Also, it is not possible to pay taxes unless one has a job and earns enough to create a tax liability. Further, one of the tragic facts is that too often when Negroes try to do something for themselves they get little more recognition than when they don't.

There is coming up a little testing of our good faith. A group of Negro veterans, each one screened as to character, responsibility and good will, has been incorporated and has a housing plan approved by the FHA.

They ask the county to sell them a piece of ground on which they will construct housing. The section is surrounded on three sides by Negro housing. Across the street on the one remaining side is white housing. But, these Negroes, trying to make sense, and to show good will, have a plan which would fix their boundary 100 feet from the street and which would erect a screen of trees and shrubs between that and the distant street.

Unless some agitator stirs up trouble or starts false reports, which has been done too often in the past, we can conceive of no valid objection. If there is a valid one it will come out in the hearing. We earnestly commend to the Commission that it do all in its power to show to these citizens that an honest, sincere effort to do something for themselves and their people will be recognized and given impartial treatment. Jun. 4-10-49

A Solution Is in Sight

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta Georgia
Jun 2-17-49

Because of the forthrightness of Mayor William B. Hartsfield in creating a committee of white and colored citizens to study the housing tensions in the Mozley Park area where for a long time the two races have been adjoining, and because of the urging by the Governor that a legal solution be found, an agreement by the citizens involved is in sight. No legal line may be drawn, but those involved may act voluntarily. This is to be done.

In our first editorial on the subject we commented on the fact that it was always white persons who sold to Negroes and that often white real estate dealers assisted in the machinations leading to such sales. No realtor or member of the Atlanta Real Estate Board has been so guilty. Negro dealers who solicit, and obtain, sales from white residents must have upon their conscience, as must those who, sell, the fact that their profits may lead to violence and to serious losses for all concerned.

We again wish to call attention to three points. Jun. 2-17-49

1. Inflammatory speeches do not help and cannot help.

2. There is a great need for low-rental and low-sale-cost housing. In our previous editorial we cited the Bureau of Census figures showing that half of America's families have incomes of less than $5,000 per year and a large percentage of these have incomes below $3,000.

3. The third point is this, and in many respects it is the most important, since it deals with the present. In all regions where there is adjoining housing, it is obvious that an even more tension-producing situation would be created if the colored population by-passed and bought houses on the other side. There is only one solution. That is for all the citizens concerned, both white and colored, to agree not to buy or sell until the full agreement of each property owner in a block has been obtained. The inflammatory agitators need to be reminded that neither the Governor nor the Mayor have any legal authority to prevent sales or to restrict the real estate dealers. This is a free country and business is free. But there is a moral issue and a duty to the City and State at stake. There isn't enough housing. But the Congress is likely to assist in creating more low-cost units. Until there is ample housing both races are going to be seeking homes. In all sections—not just Mozley Park—let voluntary committees be formed to reach agreements now—before tensions develop.

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Atlanta, Ga. 46a

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Governor and the Commission that these agents be not punished. They are not guilty. The situation of not enough housing is the only guilty thing. There is an opportunity for the State to do a positive and constructive deed. Take these real estate men and make of them a committee to keep an eye on the problem and to anticipate and work out agreements. A "goat" will not be of any help.

Secondly, we urge upon the Atlanta Real Estate Board officials that they present such a request to the Commission. What we desperately need is a working

Real Estate Commission has summoned some real estate dealers, white and colored, to a hearing Saturday. There is a report an attempt will be made to revoke licenses and provide a "goat" in the housing tensions brought on by sale of houses by white persons to Negroes in communities which for a generation have seen what every Southern city has seen—Negroes moving into housing vacated by white persons.

We have been deeply concerned with the problem and have earnestly sought to learn something about it. We believe we have.

We therefore respectfully urge of the

A Goat Is Not the Answer

Atlanta Georgia

We note with interest that the State

solution, not a few "goats"—and not bad national publicity.

The Real Estate Purge

Atlanta Constitution

May we again respectfully urge upon the Georgia Real Estate Commission that they not throw Georgia into the courts and present her unfairly to the nation by attempting to take away the licenses of legitimate real estate dealers, because they have handled the sale of property offered for sale by white owners in neighborhoods adjoining Negroes. In so saying we have at heart the real interests of these owners who are up against a problem made acute by the lack of housing.

"Goats" are not the answer. The Commission can, by appointing at least some of these dealers to a committee, of both races, through which all sales are requested to clear, do a constructive thing, which will work toward a solution. Sales can't be stopped. They can be controlled.

There is no need for us always to try and take a short cut, or to make someone a "goat" and say we have solved it. We trust the Governor himself will ask of the board that it try to create a local commission wherever one is needed and let those dealers serve on it who know the situation best. It is a job for professionals. Let's show ourselves and the nation we can be constructive.

Greed and Housing Tensions

Atlanta Constitution

Racial friction brought on by housing shortages again has rubbed tempers raw in the Mozley Park section of Atlanta, where for some time the two populations have been adjoining.

The pattern is a familiar one.

There aren't enough houses. It is always white residents who sell to Negroes and always white real estate dealers who handle the deal.

Sometimes they deal in falsehoods. A familiar tactic is to tell a white resident that a neighbor has sold to Negroes and if the resident being given the information will sell quick, before the news gets out, a high price can be got. If this works a Negro is approached and told that if he will pay a high price he can get into a good house in a friendly neighborhood. When he moves in he often finds instead an enraged neighborhood. Sometimes the dealer then follows up and agrees to take the house back off his hands—at a greatly reduced sum, of course.

Greedy and unscrupulous white persons are behind 90 percent of such sales and the friction which arises. Often they have the aid of equally greedy Negroes.

We trust that all those involved will work out a solution. Violence solves nothing. Neither the Governor nor the Mayor has recourse to any law or legal power to forbid sales or draw lines. But they can be drawn by mutual agreement. This must be done.

Trials Today

This situation serves as a dramatic background to United States' needs in housing. The latest Census Bureau figures on family incomes show that all housing programs, local, State and Federal, must be directed to production of low-cost living units.

About half the nation's 37,000,000 families have incomes of less than $3,000 a year; 30,000,000 of the 37,000,000 have incomes of less than $5,000 a year. These figures are for 1947, the latest available. It may be assumed they are not greatly changed.

The Family Service Association of America has said of the crowded conditions: "The difficulty of finding housing is resulting in postponement of marriages and child-bearing as well as overtaxing family budgets to a point where families face real psychological dangers . . . tensions between husband and wife and children is on the increase because of crowded and of 'doubled-up' conditions."

In many Southern cities an increase in racial tensions may be added to that report.

The problem is not one of producing housing. It is one of producing housing which makes possible a satisfactory family life at a rental or purchase cost within reach of the incomes of the American people—most of which are below $5,000 a year and half of which are below $3,000.

Obviously, if we do not so do we will have really struck at the heart of the American way of life—the family.

Housing Tensions

Editor Constitution: Your editorial the other day giving an analysis of the so-called housing "tension" between whites and Negroes was just about as true a picture as can possibly be presented of a problem which has no complete solution.

I think the light you threw on the situation will help some of the hotheads (who I understand went so far as to ask the Governor that the license of Negro real estate men be revoked, so that somebody could be made the goat) see the actual situation as it not only now exists, but as it was before most of us were born and probably will be after most of us are gone.

Atlanta is a big city, but it didn't happen that way over night. It had to grow to its present proportions, and with this growth came the usual growing pains. I remember as far back as 1910, when we bought our home on West Fair Street (I don't think there were any Negro real estate agents in those days and hardly any of the present white realtors in existence), but the same things were happening then as now. My family moved next door to old Chief of Police Beavers. The block below is still called "Beaver's Slide," because of as we were told what happened to the Chief during one icy season.

The feeling then was just as so-called "tense" as it is today. But two factors contributed to the continued solution of the constant "change-over" of neighborhoods in those days.

1. There were no paid "rabble rousers" and professional agitators imported from other neighborhoods, invited or welcomed to take part in working out a solution.

2. The men of that day seemed to have the vision and foresight not only to be cognizant of this necessary growth and expansion of Atlanta, but were willing to help make plans to meet this progressiveness in growth and development.

The pattern in Atlanta has always been, with some exceptions, that of the whites moving out of old neighborhoods into new subdivisions, and the Negroes in turn moving into these old neighborhoods. The Negro certainly has not followed such patterns by desire on his part, but because of economic conditions beyond his control.

I suggest, therefore, that if such so-called "tensions" occasionally occur as a result of the above pattern, that a technique of "finger-pointing" not be employed as a solution, but rather that men with vision like our forefathers get together and use their foresightedness constructively. For whether we wish it or not, Atlanta shall ever continue to grow.

Atlanta. ENGRAM HARDEN.

Housing Issue

Editor Constitution: It is gratifying to note in the editorial columns of the Feb. 18 and Feb. 20 issues of The Constitution that you have taken up the suggestion made to you in October, 1948, in regard to relieving tensions in racial borderline housing areas. Agreements effected by immediate neighbors, based upon the democratic majority principle, without pressure from the outside, and backed up by public opinion, constitute the best possible solution.

This principle had been proceeding in the Mozley Park area for several months, until professional agitators came into the situation and stirred up residents of surrounding sections not immediately affected. Naturally, appeals to racial prejudices can be used effectively to create tensions in such situations which would work themselves out peaceably otherwise.

There are other retarding factors in establishing such a principle. First, it is difficult to find leadership in the white neighborhood which will accept responsibility for advising the minority to stick with the majority, and even more difficult to find the leadership which would attempt to guide the actions of prospective Negro purchasers, since they would come from the other parts of the city. Second, with the prospect of high prices, plus the desire to get out, "the next house is always for sale." As you state, boundary agreements are temporary only, in the absence of substantial natural barriers. Contrary to average opinion, local real estate agents of both races have worked to facilitate the adjustment of relations in these neighborhoods, and do not act until they are called in by persons who desire to sell.

Your Feb. 16 editorial on this subject erroneously indicated that white real estate agents use unethical methods in these situations and it is good to observe that your later statement corrected this. An impartial investigation will reveal that Negro agents are likewise not to be blamed, since they act only when called upon by white property owners who have urgent desires to sell because of the proximity to Negroes and the expectation of high prices. Even so, few of them are able to find new homes at prices for which they sell.

We agree with you that in all fairness, no particular group or individual should be blamed for tensions arising out of an acute sociological problem for which public officials, local, State and Federal, should assume responsibility. We suggest a community-wide permanent interracial committee, which should be officially appointed or sanctioned, and which, backed up by strong public opinion, would be able to facilitate understanding and oppose violent agitation.

T. M. ALEXANDER, President,
Atlanta. Empire Real Estate Board.

RALPH McGILL

Atlanta Constitution

You Go Look At Housing Tensions

Atlanta Georgia

I went out in a car and had a look at some of the housing areas where tensions have been produced by the meeting of white and colored owners and renters. You complete such a survey with a deep feeling of sympathy for all involved.

It is not a new trouble.

In Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis and New York there have been small and large riots. In Chicago and Detroit there have been some killings.

Jun-2-20-49

The problem is more acute in the South than elsewhere, but we have no killings and we have no riots. You find yourself saying, "Pray God we won't." Riots don't settle anything. But there is always some foolish hothead who wants to do something violent—who gets up at meetings and rants and threatens.

The South, with the most pressure, has had no housing violence to match that in other regions, including far-away California.

We can avoid them if we work at it.

The idea of committees is a good one. It removes the problem from one of rumor and anger and makes of it one to be talked out.

Solution There isn't any ready solution. The two races can meet and make agreements about not selling or crossing designated streets. This helps. It slows down the sales and rentals.

But that won't stop them for more than a time.

The answer is found in the building permits. They reveal that of all the building that has gone up since the war, only about three percent of it has been for Negroes. They are desperate for housing. The reason there hasn't been more Negro housing is the same reason that there hasn't been low rental and low sale-cost housing for white persons. Housing costs of labor and materials have been too great to allow row rents and sale costs.

Empties That is why we have empty houses now for sale in the $10,000 to $25,000 class. That is why apartments, in some of the newly completed housing projects (with 90 percent Government loans), have reduced rents from $85 down to $59 and still have empty units.

The real housing needs have not been touched.

There is still an almost explosive pressure from low-income peoples of both races to have housing. Our people, white and colored, have been wonderfully patient.

Jun-2-20-49

Sales So, agreements are made. But after awhile a white owner in a section where Negroes have moved in will get a chance to buy or he will build in another section. White persons are not interested in his old house. The owner's property has declined in value if offered to a white person. But, ironically, if offered to a Negro it has increased in value, sometimes as much as 50 percent. So after awhile he can't resist the chance to get $7,500 for a house in which he has lived for 10 or so years and for which he paid $5,000. After a struggle with his conscience and after weighing what his white neighbors will call him, he breaks his word and agreement not to sell to a Negro and does sell.

The Negro moves in to be met with the frustrated fury and bitter resentment of the white persons who remain in the block. Their position is easily understood. They have spent years in their homes. They have made gardens and planted flowers. They don't want to move. In a few such areas there are a few who have stuck it out. They have found the Negroes better neighbors than some of the white persons who were in some of the low-rental slum houses that develop in old neighborhoods and which finally descend to a sort of Tobacco Road status. These also plague the settled white home owners. But, in the main, the Negro doesn't want to live in a white neighborhood any more than a white person likes being in a colored one. So, within a few years the process makes the community an all-colored one.

Who, or what, is to blame?

Blame? Certainly the white person objecting isn't to blame. He has not contributed to the tension. And as assuredly the Negro isn't to blame. He bought in good faith from a white man. The blame lies in our failure to solve the real housing problem—the one that is explosively desperate.

It is one of those situations which only development of Negro and white residential sections will solve. There again the problem is one of building at a cost which will allow low rents and low sales. It won't be eased soon. That's the really bad truth about the situation.

All that is possible is stopgap agreements made by committees. Let leaders in all such regions where the problem is growing take steps now to create such committees. Let ministers and cool-headed men who can see both sides act before tensions develop. We can do that. Agreements are the only answer for the present.

RALPH McGILL

Some Suggestions About Negro Housing

Atlanta Constitution

Atlanta Georgia

It is important to know.

Too often we react emotionally. This is true in the present housing crisis—which isn't going to end soon and which will require the best in all of us to avoid trouble.

Jun-8-26-49

A number of persons have asked, in apparent good faith:

"Why is there so much pressure for housing that white people are selling their homes to Negroes?"

There is an answer and it is a sound one. The Atlanta Housing Council has provided the answers and a solution. Their proposals have gone to 46 white and colored civic organizations. A total of 21 have accepted and indorsed the report. The Atlanta Council of Church Women and American Legion Post No. 1 are two of them, and represent the variety of organizations in support of it.

Their solution is simple. We urge the State Insurance Commission to study it.

Plan Negro housing has overflowed the maximum possible use of present areas with the inevitable result that colored families have been forced to move into housing areas in white-fringe sections. Negro families have had no assistance in determining what areas are suitable for them and which areas could be used by them. A committee of dealers could implement it.

The plan suggests as the most logical and appropriate expansion of Negro housing, without tensions, in selected sites in the following areas:

1—Simpson and Gordon Road, from city limits to the river.
2—Federal Penitentiary area.
3—The Doraville area.
4—The House Road area.
5—The Nancy Creek area.
6—The Rockdale Park area.

This is the plan indorsed by the agencies to which it was submitted. That there will be objection is anticipated. There is no insistence on these areas. What is indicated is that we agree on some area and get some building done. We can't go on drifting.

Jun-8-26-49

Reasons Now, as to reasons for the desperate situation. The critical lack of Negro housing has been worsened by the condemnation of homes housing about 1,000 Negroes along the route of the express highway; by the eviction of about 300 Negroes from the Bagley Park settlement; by removal of Negroes to make way for the warehouse of the Atlantic Coast Line; by condemnation of slum houses, by fires and so on.

In 1947 the Census Bureau reported 40,426 units for Negroes in Atlanta and of that number 23,124, or 57 percent were without bathing facilities; 16,000 lacked flush toilets, and 11,000 were in need of major repairs. Since then the number of houses has been reduced. Negro population has increased in seven years by a little more than 13,000. It is still a third of the city's population.

Incomes Of the Negro families in Atlanta, 18.3 percent had incomes of $3,000 and over. Of that 18 percent, it is estimated that 3,200 families can rent or buy houses at the present-day market prices. Half of these can afford to buy homes costing between $6,000 and $8,000. It is this fact which induces white owners to sell their houses at greatly increased values.

White persons are moving out of Atlanta. The resulting pressure on white areas where owners have sold, and are selling to Negroes, is growing. The facts may as well be faced—the situation can't get better until there is housing.

I go to some trouble to present details because I believe most of our people want to do what is right. If a situation is understood there is less likelihood of trouble.

Committee One of the worst features is that until the Mayor acted to form committees, no Negro knew, until he moved in, that he was buying a house in a neighborhood where there would be objection.

These committees can do a stop-gap job. But that is all. Not until there is housing will the pressure be relieved.

We need to start right now and find localities where Negro housing can be built and assist every agency, private or Federal, in getting it built for low-cost rental and sale.

Slow The outlook is not encouraging. The National Association of Home Builders, in convention in Chicago, is pessimistic about lending institutions being willing to go into the low-cost housing field for two reasons—the return must come back over a longer period of years and because of the belief that low-income people are poor mortgage risks.

The worst thing we can do now is to let things drift and be unprepared when either private or Federal agencies are ready to

you feel proud of all concerned. The spellbinders rousers haven't been able to touch off violence. And tirred deeply when a man feels his home is being s keep on working at it. Suspending dealers would . Let's use them to help work with county and city oblem.

RALPH McGILL

Atlanta Constitution

A Plan for the Housing Tensions

Atlanta Georgia

A dangerous fool or fools, recently dynamited a house on Ashby Street. As such they drew Atlanta into the spotlight of lawlessness. The or one of its small-scale imitations, or at least the mentality, is blamed. The Communists are aided. to the Negroes, "See, you are not protected by the our only friends." The Communists properly regard their best asset.

Ku Klux Klan, or c
Ku Klux Klan mem
They can say to th
law. We are your o
the Klan as their
A Negro had bou
white man had sold it. The
it because he wanted to get out. The Negro bought
it because he needed a place to live and the place was offered for
sale.

Now, the place is dynamited by fools, or a fool. Nothing is solved.

The Negro still needs a place to live. More white persons want to sell. The neighborhood is one which for years has been following the process familiar to all Atlantans—as white people move out Negroes move in.

Sorrow It is a problem for people. Everyone admits it. It is a distressing problem, often with a lot of genuine sorrow and grief. I can understand the unhappiness.

But, even those who are grieved and even those who are reluctantly selling their property, know that dynamite isn't the solution. The dynamite blast will make many other white owners determined to sell and move out. Stupidity is expensive.

White owners have a right to sell. It's a free country. The Negroes have got a right to buy if it is offered. And dynamite, like all force applied to a human problem, is stupid and wrong and solves nothing.

Plan The State Real Estate Commission and the Atlanta Real Estate Board could come forward with a constructive move. The City needs them. As it is, everyone seems to be trying to make someone the goat for selling old residences, legitimately offered by white owners, to Negroes. If a white person owns a house which is in the edge of a Negro community and can make a large profit on it by selling to a Negro purchaser, is it reasonable to expect him to sell it at a loss or let it stand empty?

Pressure The City has torn down several hundred Negro homes for highway building. The Power Company parking lot brought down others. Still more have been razed in the slum clearance program. Hundreds have been made homeless. And almost none have been built.

The pressure is terrific. I think a constructive program would be for the people who know something about real estate to get together with Negro real estate representatives and work out a plan.

What's wrong with a joint person to person survey of the sections involved?

How about letting responsible men handle this instead of a rabble-rouser element with dynamite as its solution? There is a method to be used.

Plan What if these responsible men of both races, who know real estate, would do the City the service of going to see the people who are in a section which is slowly being sold out to colored people, and saying to them something like this:

"We are seeing all the people in these several blocks. There are Negro purchasers for your homes. You could expect a fair profit. We can offer you now, or within a few months, a new house, or a relatively new one, in another section which is not adjoining Negroes. Would you be willing to entertain the idea of agreeing to sell? Or, would you be in favor of a re-alignment of property, a sort of re-grouping of the populations, so that the slack could be taken up and the troublesome fringe houses sold off?"

Clear A lot of ideas could be employed. What's wrong with a joint committee through which all sales clear? I like that one. Such a committee of white and colored real estate men could work it out sale by sale.

So far all we have done is to use dynamite and threaten to suspend dealers for doing legitimate business. That's the sort of thing that makes one despair. "Goats" and dynamite are no answer.

Building You know how many houses were built in Atlanta last year? There were 683 one-family frame dwellings built, at an average cost of $7,670. They would sell for from $11,000 to $14,000. There were 50 frame duplex buildings, at a cost of about $11,075 each. There were 110 brick houses, at a cost of about $6,000 each and 13 brick duplexs, costing almost $9,000 each. There were also permits for 16 apartment houses, some unfinished.

Let's not deceive ourselves. Is there any housing in this for colored or low-income white people?

Our population has increased. Our housing, especially for Negroes, has decreased.

Atlanta can't be allowed to become a lawless city.

Let's try to help the grand jury get to the bottom of this dynamiting, and pick up the irresponsible persons responsible. Lawlessness breeds more of the same.

Commission Studies Negro Housing Plan

After hearing a plea from representatives of 127 Negro war veterans for assistance in partly solving the acute Negro housing problem, the Fulton County Commission has called a conference with leaders of white residents near the intersection of West Lake Avenue and Simpson Street, N. W.

The veterans have organized a non-profit organization known as Urban Ville, Inc., and have obtained financing for 127 low-cost housing units. They wish to buy from the County all except a 100-foot strip of 43 acres of County property near West Lake Avenue and Simpson Street. The 100-foot strip would become a park and a barrier between the Negroes and white residing on one side of the property.

Commissioner I. Gloer Hailey explained the County acquired the land from the Grove Park Development Company, which had purchased it to prevent further encroachments of Negroes and had sold it to the County with the understanding it would not be resold to Negroes. He said the County could not sell the property to Negroes unless an agreement was reached with the white residents, but thought a conference might bring results.

The Negroes said they wanted to avoid all friction now and in the future and that the 127 veterans had been screened by a social agency. Negro housing has decreased, owing to the clearing out of rights of way for the expressways and to industrial development, at the time when their need for housing was greatest, they said.

They pointed out the County had torn down 80 Negro homes in Bagley Park, condemned 150 Negro homes for the North-South Expressway and a railroad had evicted 34 Negro families for a warehouse. They also said the Negro population here increased from 129,543 in 1940 to 142,855 in 1947.

Six Negro sections, they continued, had 20,000 persons per square mile, five had 15,500 to 20,449, four had 10,500 to 15,499, three had 5,500 to 10,499 and only one had less than 5,500 per square mile.

Mozley Place Racial Housing Schism Easing

Prospects were bright last night for settlement of racial differences caused by Negro encroachment on Mozley Place, S. W.

A seven-man committee of Negro and white citizens, named to devise an acceptable plan, late yesterday decided on a compromise proposal and reported progress.

They will submit the proposal today to affected property owners and predicted it would be acceptable.

Under the plan, a line would be established beyond which Negroes would not buy or rent houses along Mozley Place and certain barriers also would be provided. Details of the program were withheld by the joint committee pending submission to their respective groups.

President Joseph M. Wallace announced a meeting of the West End Co-operative at 8 p. m. today at Stanton School.

Before the meeting started, members of the State Board of Real Estate Examiners appeared at the City Hall to tell members of the white committee to file charges against any realty operators misrepresenting facts in connection with the sale of white-owned properties to Negroes.

187-Unit Negro Subdivision Assured Here

Construction of a new subdivision to house 187 Negro families was practically assured yesterday when the Fulton Finance Company of Georgia agreed to finance the project.

Present plans are to erect single-family dwellings costing between [illegible] and $7,500 each. Known as Fairhaven, the development will be built on a 43-acre tract owned by a Negro group, adjacent to the new Fulton County Park on Anderson Avenue, in Northwest Atlanta.

Speaking for the Insurance Company, H. Howard Dobbs, President and Treasurer, said the company has agreed to provide funds for the construction of the homes through its mortgage department, provided that loans for individual units are approved by the FHA.

It is anticipated that building on the project can begin in the next few days, although no contracts have been let as yet.

The houses will be 4 and 4½ rooms and baths, having a floor space of between 800 and 1,000 square feet.

Acting as sponsors in behalf of the property owners is the Atlanta Urban League, a Community Chest agency. Their spokesman stated the 60x120-foot lots in the project will be residential and will be one-story type construction. Inquiries will be answered by B. Q. Chennault, R. L. Chennault and J. R. Wilson, Jr., property owners, or the Atlanta Urban League.

Housing Race Tension To Be Aired

Racial tensions caused by sales of white residential properties to Negroes in Atlanta will be aired before the Georgia Real Estate Commission today.

Three Atlanta real estate dealers—two Negroes and one white man—have been summoned to appear before the Commission to show cause why their licenses should not be revoked.

Reportedly the three dealers are accused of selling homes in white neighborhoods to Negroes and of misrepresenting to their Negro customers that homes they bought were in areas zoned for Negroes.

The extremely tight-lipped members of the Commission would not discuss the case yesterday, and denied newsmen access to copies of the charges.

The State is believed prepared, however, to show that the real estate sales in question violated the public interest by inciting racial friction.

Many witnesses are expected to testify at the hearing which begins at 9 a. m. in the House of Representatives Chamber at the State Capitol.

Commission Chairman Leo Griffin, of Savannah, said there will be no secrecy about the hearing, thus indicating it will be open to the public.

The hearing follows the Saturday night dynamiting of a home recently purchased by Negroes in a white neighborhood. Similar violence has broken out several times in Atlanta in recent years, especially during the short-lived existence of the outlawed Columbians.

The accused real estate dealers are reported ready to take their case to the Supreme Court, if necessary. Such an eventuality would give the case national importance. The Supreme Court already has hit segregation patterns in previous decisions, ruling that real estate covenants against sale of property to Negroes cannot be enforced.

The court has also ruled that zoning laws against Negroes are invalid. Atlanta has no such zoning laws, however.

A delegation of white residents from the Mozley Park section of Atlanta recently appealed to Gov. Talmadge for protection against encroachment of Negro residents in that area.

Members of the Georgia Real Estate Commission are Leo Griffin, Savannah, Chairman; Harry Boyce, Columbus, and L. C. Pitts, Atlanta.

Settlement In Housing Dispute Still Pending

Settlement was still pending Wednesday in the housing tension of the Mozley Park section, it was pointed out.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the white residents of the disputed residential territory was slated for last night at the Stanton School. Negro property owners in the vicinity are expected to be called into conference tomorrow.

If and when such a point is accepted by the races, its adherence

Mixed Housing Project by Co-operative Fought

Afro - Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 6-4-49

White Residents Point to Declining Property Values, Unsegregated Classes

CHICAGO (ANP)—The idea of an interracial community in York Center township, south of Villa Park in DuPage county near here, has developed a situation which threatens to cause quite a commotion.

The principals are the white residents of York Center who are opposed to an interracial community, and officials of the York Center Community Co-operative, Inc., backers of the co-operative housing projects.

60 Units Planned

The co-op community is located south of Roosevelt Rd. and just west of Meyers Rd. Eight families are living there and 11 houses are under construction.

There are about 60 members in the co-op who are scheduled to build on a 65-acre tract within the next few years.

No Color Bar

Residents living east of Meyers Rd. are against the co-op project because of a stipulation that there will be "no ban on race, color or creed" in the community.

A meeting of representatives of the two factions was held last December to thrash out the interracial situation. 6-4-49

The co-op representatives formally acknowledged that there would be no ban against colored Americans, Japanese-Americans, or any other racial or religious group, "if the individuals themsedves were acceptable."

Offer to Buy Scorned

For the opposition, Mr. William Meskan, secretary of the York Center Mutual, offered to raise a fund and buy out all the co-op property held by "non-Caucasians." The co-op refused the offer.

In her denunciation of the interracial community, Mrs. Meskan said: 6-4-49

"The presence of non-Caucasian families is deteriorating the value of our real estate. We don't want to live with them and we don't want our children going to school with theirs. But there is nothing we can do legally.

"The only thing we can do is to move out, and a number of us are planning to do so. Houses are being put up for sale but the real estate agents, knowing the situation, don't seem too interested."

Pupils Transfer Sought

The residents, meanwhile, circulated a petition to have their part of York Center transferred from School District 45, so that their children would be segregated from the co-op youngsters.

However, the co-op learned of this and filed a petition with the township board, pointing out that if one part of the town was taken out of the school district, the rest of it must be also.

The township school board has taken the matter under advisement.

NEGROES FORCED TO CROWD INTO UNFIT HOUSING

[Third in a series on the problems of Chicago Negroes.]

BY CARL WIEGMAN

Chicago's housing problem reaches its most acute phase in the districts occupied by Negroes. Thousands of Negro families are living in one room "kitchenettes," each equipped with little more than a bed, an icebox, and a three burner gas stove.

Many white families also live in such dwellings, even tho they may be able to afford to pay for better accommodations. There simply is not enough housing to go around, largely because rent control, high building costs and high taxes virtually have stopped construction of new rental units with private capital.

Flats Cut Into Tenements

For Negroes, the problem is worse because their numbers have almost doubled in the last 20 years without a proportionate increase in the living areas available to them. Unscrupulous landlords, both Negro and white, have taken advantage of this situation. Hundreds of old flat buildings, designed for half a dozen families, have been cut up into kitchenettes to triple or quadruple the number of tenants and the rental income.

Several tenements have been scenes of disastrous fires. Most of them are breeders of crime, juvenile delinquency, disease, and unrest.

In one south side area, recently surveyed by the Real Estate Research corporation, 3,580 families plus 646 roomers were found to be living in dwelling units built for 1,127 families. James C. Downs, president of the research organization, said other districts on the south side have similar overcrowding.

Building Laws Violated

Violations of the building laws are common. Ald. Carey [3d], an aggressive Negro leader, conceded that the laws were not being enforced, and said:

"I would argue against enforcement so long as the present desperate housing shortage continues. If we enforced the laws people would be living in tents in the streets. On my desk I have a list of 98 families who are occupying deplorable places. One mother with seven children is trying to live in one room."

Carey was asked how he would stop overcrowding, in view of the fact that as soon as a Negro family moves out of a substandard flat a new family from the south may take its place.

Offers a Solution

"The city should fix a certain date and announce that no new family would be permitted to move into a substandard dwelling after that date," the alderman replied.

Zealots for public housing contend this is the only answer, and have high hopes for the success of the program to build 40,000 federally financed housing units in Chicago in the next six years. Proposed sites for the first seven of these units, costing approximately 100 million dollars, have been submitted to Mayor Kennelly by the Chicago housing authority and are now under consideration by the city council housing committee.

Four of the sites are in all-Negro or predominantly Negro neighborhoods. One site in the "Back of the Yards" area is now occupied by dwellings of white families. Two sites are vacant land in white neighborhoods.

Carey Opposed to Quotas

Miss Elizabeth Wood, executive secretary of the Chicago housing authority, said she believed that in white neighborhoods the tenants of public housing projects should be "predominantly" white; in Negro neighborhoods "predominantly" Negro.

Others speak more frankly of setting up racial quotas for the projects. Ald. Carey said he was against quotas on principle, but would not oppose them if they were based on the percentage of Negroes in the total population.

"I believe no project should be all white or all Negro," Carey said. "However, if a project were erected in Rogers Park, for example, and no Negroes applied for admission, I would not object if it became all white."

Negroes in Housing Projects

In Chicago's 10 permanent public housing projects about 60 per cent of the 7,680 dwelling units are occupied by Negro families. CHA officials said this percentage is high because 2,700 of the units were built during the war under special priorities to give homes to Negro war workers.

Four of the 10 projects are occupied entirely by Negroes, four are all white, and two are occupied by both blacks and whites. The Francis Cabrini homes, 900 N. Hudson av., was built when the area was 80 per cent white and 20 per cent Negro. Now the area is 85 per cent Negro and 15 per cent white, but the CHA reports that the Cabrini project has been maintained with about 75 per cent white tenants.

Thomas H. Wright, executive director of the city commission on human relations, said he believed that projects in white neighborhoods should have a strong representation of Negro tenants, and vice versa.

"Negroes have a strong claim to places in the projects on the basis of their great needs," he said.

"When the two peoples are segregated there are few means of communication between them, few opportunities to break down the ancient prejudices."

William E. Hill, director of community relations of the South Side Planning board, said he doubted that a stable biracial community could be maintained where white persons are in the minority.

"The prevailing social and psychological situation simply goes against such a situation," he said. "If quotas are set up, they should give Negroes more than a token representation but not a majority."

Hill urged that the first units of new public housing should be built on vacant land, rather than in slum areas, to avoid displacing the present slum dwellers. He cited the "anxiety" which has arisen among Negro families whose homes will be razed for the proposed New York Life Insurance company housing project to be erected on a tract bounded by 31st st., South Park way, 35th st., and the New York Central tracks.

3,600 Displaced Families

Hill said approximately 3,600 families will be displaced by this project, which will provide attractive homes for 1,400 Negro families. Of the displaced families, about 1,200 will be eligible for public housing and these have been given priority as tenants in the Dearborn homes, an 800 unit project now nearing completion at 27th and State sts. Six hundred additional families will be eligible to rent apartments in the relocation housing projects to be erected with city and state funds.

Of the remaining 1,800 displaced families, Hill said about 500 have incomes sufficient to buy homes outside the area or to rent apartments in the New York Life project. Another 100 families will be able to buy private homes in a nearby housing development planned by a group of Negro insurance companies.

Hill said this leaves a group of about 1,200 families who are caught in the middle because their incomes are too high for public housing and not high enough to buy homes for themselves or to live in the New York Life project.

"Thru its land clearance commission, the city is condemning property and turning it over to private owners for redevelopment," Hill said. "If this can be done, the city also has an obligation to use its powers to protect the displaced people from intimidation when they seek new homes outside of the area."

Gary Dedicates Washington Terrace Homes; Emancipation Day

Atlanta Daily World
4-6-49 Housing
Wed. 8-10-49

GARY, Ind.—(ANP)—The formal dedication of Booker T. Washington terrace, the latest addition to Gary's housing projects, together with the observance of the 83rd Annual emancipation day celebration here Sunday, made a red letter day for the steel capital of the nation. The project, constructed by Andrew A. Means, was hailed as "exemplifying all of the things that Tuskegee's founder lived and died for courage, work, insight and love."

These remarks were made by Dr. [illegible] Derbigny, vice-president of Tuskegee institute, who delivered the principal address. Said the speaker:

"This ground has been made holy by the one to whom it is dedicated—Booker T. Washington; for he stands high among all those who have hallowed our soil.

RESULT OF TEACHING

"This project which we dedicate today is a direct result of his teaching. All over the land, the graduates of that great institution, Tuskegee institute, which he founded, are carrying to mankind the message of skilled labor, honest labor, labor dedicated to the service of its fellow man."

Prior to Dr. Derbggny's address Leslie Weiner unveiled a statute of Booker T. Washington, giving the veil to Mrs. Andrew A. Means. Other speakers present at the ceremonies included Mayor Eugene Swartz, representing Gov. Shrocker; R. Earl Peters, state FHA director; Joseph Chapman, Urban league, and Claude A. Barnett. A parade proceeded the ceremonies and following its conclusion went on to North Gleason park where the Emancipation day program was continued.

Principal speaker at this program was Capt. A. J. Neely, executive secretary of the General Alumni association of Tuskegee institute.

Lexington Project Denies Negro Evictions

Courier Journal
Louisville Ky.
3-30-49

Lexington, Ky., March 29 (AP) —Jack Bryant, managing director of the Lexington Municipal Housing Project, said today there was no truth to a "rumor" that two Negro housing projects here would be vacated in favor of white occupants. He said he was unable to trace the source.

3-30-49

On the contrary, he said, the City stands a good chance of getting additional housing units of which part would be for Negroes.

Ky. Mother Held Menial Jobs to Educate 4; Ready to Retire

Chr Amer
Baltimore Maryland

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Ready to retire from her job as a scrubwoman, Mrs. Rose Esters, 68, boasts that she raised and paid for the education of her four children without accepting help from anyone although a number of persons offered to assist her with her family.

Oct 1-1-49

Proudly declaring that she has purchased a house for $6,500 cash, Mrs. Esters says that she had an easy life as a bride in Marion County, Ky., where her husband was a prosperous tobacco merchant. When the market dropped, he suffered a stroke and died, and life became more difficult for her.

Before accepting the job as scrubwoman at the hospital for $45 a month, Mrs. Esters held several low paying jobs, and began putting aside $3 to $4 when she could. At present, three of her four children own their own businesses.

What's Happening To Pontiac's Housing

Detroit Tribune

We note back as far as June, 1948, and find the City Commission on June 8, adopted for final passage an ordinance creating a five man Pontiac Housing Commission designed to participate in an anticipated Federal Public Housing program for low income rental units. Since the passage of the bill all Pontiac has received is a series of lectures and the Housing Commission has received some publicity. Detroit, Mich.

The people of Pontiac are tired of listening to those endless discussions on "Housing" which have ended up with no new developments. The citizens of Pontiac want action on the Housing program. For example, lets look at the trailer camp homes throughout the city. The last wind storm left many families homeless. Many trailers were blown apart. It seems that the labor-management leadership of these factories in our community would take an active interest in the workers and aid the Pontiac Housing commission in securing low cost homes regardless of race, creed or color. Sat. 2-19-49

From reports of the annual winter panel at Southwest Community Center held on January 29, it was noted that Negroes in Pontiac are in more acute need of housing than any other group. Let's put away lectures on Housing and start giving the people of Pontiac some consideration by securing homes for them.

Investigate KKK Warning to N. J. Man Who Advertised 'Home For Sale to Anyone'

East Orange, N. J. (NNPA)—A "fiery summons" scrawled on a piece of Ku Klux Klan stationery has prompted postal authorities to launch an investigation into warnings sent to an East Orange man who is advertising his house for sale to a member of any race.

The home owner, William Lowe, 59, of 234 South Burnet Street, also has received three telephone warnings, two from men and one from a woman. Lowe said the callers used "extremely" abusive language in describing their reactions to his willingness to sell his 2½ story brick dwelling to any one.

"At first I laughed at the calls, but now I'm so angry I won't sell this house to any one but a Negro" he said.

Besides being verbally abused, Lowe said the callers threatened his famiy's safety. As a result, he said, his grandchild, William F. Rossy, 6, a pupil at nearby Elmwood School, was not sent out of the house last Tuesday.

Lowe's youngest son, Allen F., 21, said he took the KKK letter to East Orange police headquarters last Tuesday and showed it to Lieutenant Jones, who was at the desk. The younger Lowe said he told Jones the family needed police protection. Later in the afternoon Detectives Bentley and Kemp told him the police could do nothing about the matter. The threat letter at that time was in the hands of Lowe's attorney, MarcoV. Farco of Newark, Lowe said, and added that the detectives refused to investigate further.

Bentley last Wednesday said Lowe had given the letter to a local newspaper, "and with a million finger prints on it, its no good to us." Bentley said the department is investigating the mysterious phone calls.

Defeat in New York

NEW YORK'S Negroes suffered a severe setback last week when the Appellate Division of the State's Supreme Court denied a motion by three Negro war veterans seeking to enjoin Stuyvesant Town (the big housing project of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company) from allegedly practicing racial discrimination in selecting tenants.

In 1943 this project financed by the Metropolitan (which got its start insuring Negroes and still has more Negro policyholders than any other insurance company in the country) entered into a contract under the State Redevelopment Companies Law whereby it got tax exemption for twenty-five years: i.e., was subsidized at the expense of all of the taxpayers, many of whom are now barred from residence because of color or "race."

The $90,000,000 that Stuyvesant cost was contributed by colored and white policyholders but the 24,000 families tenanted in the big project are all white.

Obviously this sets a bad precedent in a community which has gone farther than any in the country in the direction of racial democracy, and its repercussions will be felt in many directions as a threat to freedom of residence.

As was to be expected, the case is being appealed to the highest court in New York State by the NAACP and the American Jewish Congress, and it remains to be seen if the appeal will be successful.

If the appeal is not successful, it can be expected that other private owners enjoying what amounts to State subsidy will eagerly follow suit because the Metropolitan's lawyers in their winning contention held that "if the private landlord does not want to rent apartments to colored persons nothing can be done about it. We are doing no more than any other landlord in New York is doing."

The Metropolitan's twenty-five-year subsidy amounts to a saving of $50,000,000 which means that much contributed by the taxpayers who are of all colors and creeds.

We can be sure that this case is being watched in all parts of the country and if the Metropolitan finally wins in New York, the way will be left open for it and other companies to do the same thing elsewhere, thus adding to the further curtailment of the right of residence.

SEGREGATION HELD BREEDER OF EVILS

Speakers at Conference Here Demand New State Law on Public Housing

Segregation in housing, by keeping people divided into mutually unacquainted and mistrustful groups, breeds many evils, speakers at the initial luncheon and conference of the New York State Committee on Discrimination in Housing said yesterday. More than 200 persons attended the conference at the Martinique Hotel.

Robert F. Wagner Jr., chairman of the City Planning Commission; Ira S. Robbins, executive vice president of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council, and Justice Hubert T. Delany of the Domestic Relations Court were among the speakers.

Others were George H. Hallett, secretary of the Citizens Union; Algernon D. Black, chairman of the committee and executive leader of the Ethical Culture Society; Robert C. Weaver, Visiting Professor of Sociology at New York University; Dr. Stuart Cook, research official for the New School for Social Research and the American Jewish Congress, and Dr. Viola Bernard of Columbia University's Department of Psychiatry.

"At a time when our basic philosophy is locked in struggle with an alien philosophy," Mr. Wagner said, "we cannot overlook the threat to our democratic faith arising from continued prejudice and discrimination on our shores. In terms of economic security, we cannot afford the indulgence of discrimination."

Finds No Justification

Restrictive practices in housing continue, Mr. Wagner said, "even though we know they have no legal or moral base; no economic justification. It is time we exploded the pernicious myth that non-discriminatory neighborhoods breed racial tensions; that Negro occupancy results in declining property values."

Mr. Robbins, a former acting State Housing Commissioner, also attacked as mythical the ideas and arguments with which he said many people rationalize their support of racial restrictions.

Among these fallacious contentions, he said, are the statements that "Negroes and members of other minority groups are not good home owners, that they do not take good care of the dwellings in which they live, and that they are not good mortgage risks."

With Mr. Hallett and others, Mr. Robbins urged support of a bill introduced at Albany to create a temporary state commission to study the effects of segregation. Other state bills that received favorable comment would prohibit racial or religious discrimination in any housing built or maintained with any help from the state or its political subdivisions, and would amend the banking law to forbid discrimination in mortgage financing on similar discriminatory grounds.

Justice Delany declared that free enterprise was impossible for Negroes who faced segregation, and derided the "myth" that property values fall when Negroes enter a residential community.

Stuyvesant Town Is Accused of Bias

Isaacs Addresses Meeting Sponsored by Tenants

A conference to discuss alleged racial discrimination in Stuyvesant Town, Metropolitan Life Insurance housing project, was held yesterday at the Henry Hudson Hotel attended by more than 350 delegates representing an equal number of unions and community, tenant, fraternal, religious and political groups. The conference was sponsored by the Town and Village Tenants to End Discrimination in Stuyvesant Town.

Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs commended the insurance company for forging ahead in building moderate-priced housing and then condemned it for bad planning. He said the buildings were crowded so close together that there was no room for schools, churches or playgrounds.

Attacking the company for its alleged discriminatory practices against Negroes as tenants, Mr. Isaacs said, "I believe the city should not have signed the contract with Metropolitan Life giving them tax exemptions valued at about $1,000,000 a year for twenty-five years and the right of eminent domain unless they agreed that these premises be open to all."

Following two panel discussions, on community affairs and on the problem, the conference passed a series of resolutions outlining a course of action to be taken and legal and legislative aspects of the calling on Mayor William O'Dwyer and the city administration to remedy the situation.

Stuyvesant Town Plea Sent to City

Civic Groups Ask Mayor to Step Out of Bias Suit

Officers of three civic groups urged Mayor William O'Dwyer yesterday to dissociate the city administration from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's efforts to prove in court its right to bar Negroes from the Stuyvesant Town housing project.

A suit on the issue brought by three Negro veterans is scheduled to come up for argument today in Albany before the Court of Appeals. These cases reached the state's highest court after the Appellate Division sustained a 1943 contract between the city and the housing company. The city has filed briefs for the defense heretofore.

The letter urging the Mayor to reverse the city's position was signed by Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Roger N. Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union, and David Petergorsky, executive director of the American Jewish Congress.

Noting that the Stuyvesant Town contract granting condemnation aids and limited tax exemptions on the project's East River site was approved by the Board of Estimate when the late F. H. La Guardia was Mayor, the letter read:

"Any claim that it was a previous administration which originally approved the Stuyvesant Town project is no longer tenable, for the present city administration, by its brief in the Appellate Division, has placed itself squarely in support of actual, admitted discrimination. There can be no moral, or, we submit, legal justification for such action."

In the absence of an actual reversal of policy the letter urged the Mayor at least to announce that the city "will not contest the plaintiffs' case and that it is up to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to seek to justify continued racial discrimination in Stuyvesant Town."

OF STUYVESANT TOWN BIAS

NEW YORK, April 18—An appeal to Mayor William O'Dwyer calling upon the City of New York to cease defending racial discrimination in Stuyvesant Town, tax-limited Metropolitan Life Insurance Company housing project, was made this week by Walter White, secretary of the NAACP; Roger N. Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union, and David Petergorsky, executive director of the American Jewish Congress.

In a letter citing a brief submitted in the Appellate Division, in which the city defended Metropolitan's right to discriminate against Negroes, the officials of the three organizations sponsoring the case against Stuyvesant Town asserted that "any claim that it was a previous administration which originally approved the Stuyvesant Town project is no longer tenable" in view of the fact that the present administrator "has placed itself squarely in support of actual, admitted discrimination."

ASK BAN ON CITY SUPPORT

NEGRO TENANT FIGHTS BIAS EVICTION THREAT

Daily Worker
New York ed. 6-1-49

By Arnold Sroog

Miss Marie Buford has served notice on her landlord that he is in for the fight of his life, since he threatened her with eviction from her Bronx apartment because she is a Negro. Miss Buford has been living in apartment 3 at 1263 Grant Ave. with her father for about two weeks. Her white friend, Mrs. Betty Wohlburg, had invited her to occupy it while she left the city temporarily. Mr. and Mrs. Wohlburg, who rented the apartment and who retain occupancy, left town because Norman Wohlburg got a temporary job upstate. 6-1-49

Until she occupied this apartment, Miss Buford had been living separately from her father and her brother. For the first time in years now, the family is going to be reunited.

LANDLORD CALLS

The landlord is Simon Metrik, of the law firm of Metrik & Widelitz, of 170 Broadway. When Metrik learned of Miss Buford's presence in the apartment, he called on her on May 25 and demanded that she leave the apartment.

"I don't want Negroes living with whites in my house," Miss Buford quoted Metrik as saying. 6-1-49

When Miss Buford declared she would not move, that it was the Wohlburg's apartment, Metrik threatened to have her evicted. He also tried to claim that the tenants had protested against her presence. Miss Buford spiked this claim by pointing out that she had attended a tenants' meeting the previous night, and that the tenants had shown their support and had asked her to take over some duties in their organization.

Interviewed in the basement apartment, which she had fixed up in attractive fashion, Miss Buford related several of the worst anti-Negro remarks made by Metrik in the course of his half-hour conversation with her.

CONVERSATION

Sections of the conversation, as recalled by Miss Buford, went as follows: 6-1-49

Metrik: Look, you seem like a nice, intelligent young woman, and I admire intelligence in people. If I had an apartment in a colored house, I believe you would make a nice tenant. But there are no Negroes here and you shouldn't even want to stay.

Miss Buford: But there are Negroes here. I see them on the block all the time. I notice that the Negro and white children get along very well together.

Metrik: But those are supers. They are not considered tenants; they live on the premises the same as domestic workers. They are necessary to service the buildings. They are good workers and the tenants accept them as such.

Miss Buford: Do you mean that people set themselves up on such rigidly discriminating standards that they prefer living with superintendents to living with white collar workers. That's very odd. Most people prefer professionals for equals rather than domestics, if they must make a choice.

Miss Buford's answers so stung Metrik, that he exploded and threatened her in the fashion of Southern lynchers. Said Metrik:

"You know if you were in another state, I wouldn't even have to come here and talk to you about it."

Miss Buford replied sharply that she had no intention of allowing herself to be intimidated and added, **"I can fight Southern oppression wherever I am, as for instance, on Grant Ave."**

Other remarks made by Metrik were quoted by Miss Buford as follows:

"Do you know that Negroes depreciate the value of property? The minute that Negro people take over a community the value of the property falls and the neighborhood loses its prestige. I can't even get a mortgage extended on a house that Negroes move into."

When challenged to a court test by Miss Buford, Metrik said:

"Do you think I would go into court on the color issue? I'm a lawyer, you know. You're a squatter and a squatter has no rights."

Following this meeting, Miss Buford contacted the Concourse Consumer and Tenant Council to obtain their aid in her fight to remain in the opartment, Mrs. Anne Friedlander, council chairman, told this reporter that the Council intended to conduct the fight for Miss Buford and to handle the legal defense.

Metrik is no newcomer to evictions. His firm was exposed by the Daily Worker last year as one of the biggest eviction outfits in the city. His link to Rep. Isidore Dollinger (D-NY), who defeated former Rep. Leo Isacson last year, has never been fully revealed. But his firm carried dozens of evictions into court last year.

NEW YORK CITY HAS PLENTY OF PROJECT HOUSING

Daily Tribune
Chicago, Ill.
Residential Changes
Sun. 6-19-49

Much in Evidence

New York, June 17 (Special)—Looking a short distance to the southeast, along Manhattan's east side, visitors to the Empire State observatory see an impressive post-war addition to the New York sky line. It is a long series of tall, reddish tan buildings, arranged intricately in clusters.

These are "housing projects." Like a growing number of similar developments in all five boroughs, they are making some notable changes in the city's residential customs. There are private projects, with rents ranging from about $13 to $85 a room a month, and public ones, with rents of $7 to about $18 a room a month. They're all fully occupied.

Projects Dominate

Over the centuries of the city's growth, neighborhoods used to expand pretty much a house at a time. Except in the higher priced areas, the neighborhood would usually be dominated by people of similar national backgrounds. And the buildings—tenements, or apartment buildings of moderate luxury—would not ordinarily exceed five or six stories in height.

This generally unplanned growth still continues. But since the war, and for a couple of decades before, the housing project has been playing an increasing role. A "project" is a group of buildings, created at the same time on a plot large enough to permit lawns, paths, play areas, and even streets or parking areas among the houses. 6-19-49

Thus, a project looks different from a group of old fashioned tenements. This is strikingly illustrated in Harlem. On the east side, across the street from each other, are Riverton and Abraham Lincoln houses. They are projects, with all the orderliness, height, and spaciousness to be expected of them.

Negro Housing Aided

On the west side are the old fashioned buildings—in this case huddled together, neglected, and overcrowded. 6-19-49

Because this is Harlem, most of the residents on both sides of the avenue are Negroes. This is not because of segregation in the projects but largely because most of the applicants were Negroes.

Mostly, projects house peoples of all the racial and national origins to be found in the city. Most projects are operated by the New York City housing authority, which as a public agency is forbidden by law to discriminate on any basis of race, color, or religion. Negroes are not admitted to some privately owned projects, but under state and city law, no such discrimination is permitted in residential developments built with government assistance.

25 City Projects

The New York City housing authority now has 25 permanent projects in operation, housing more than 28,000 families. The Metropolitan Life Insurance company, in Parkchester, Stuyvesant Town, Peter Cooper Village, and Riverton, has 24,492 apartments. The housing authority's present plans call for expansion to 69,367 apartments, to house about 250,000 persons. Metropolitan has announced it will build no more projects until building costs are stabilized.

Thus, with all the hundreds of millions of federal, city, and state funds, and of private funds in these and other projects, only a little more than 4 per cent of the city's population will be housed in projects according to existing plans.

Similar Income Range

The shift of emphasis from common national backgrounds has gone in the projects, in the direction of "stratification" of a different type. Before the war, the people moving into public housing came very often from slum areas, and public housing is operated only for families unable to pay rents which would allow a profit to a private landlord. So these families know that they are all in just about the same income bracket. This still is so, in public housing. 6-19-49

But in private projects too, tho there is a greater variation in family incomes, there are many common interests among the residents. Veterans have received preference in the allotment of apartments built since the war. Thus a large number of new project residents are veterans, in their twenties or early thirties, with children.

Last week some of the residents of projects were asked whether they thought the city would benefit by the construction of more of the same sort of housing. With considerable agreement on many points, they thought it would. 6-19-49

Supremacists Block Negro Housing Project

RALEIGH, N. C.—White supremacists are delaying the building of a 276-unit low-rental housing project for Negroes here. Through their lawyer they succeeded in delaying the construction while the contractors tangle with a network of legal hurdles. The low-cost housing is badly needed.

They have a daughter, Barbara 14, who attends Harding High School here, and a son, Kenneth, 18, who is a student at Amherst College in Massachusetts.

In White Section

Bomb Blasts House of Negro Doctor

Warren, Ohio, April 7 (AP).—A home-made dynamite bomb which heavily damaged a Negro doctor's incompleted $50,000 home was set off in spite motivated by race prejudice, the doctor's wife told police today.

When the excavation was made last June, said Mrs. Anita Brown, the family received two threats that they would never be allowed to move into the neighborhood.

She said three men stopped at the Browns' house and told her husband, Dr. Samuel A. Brown:

"We don't want you to build a house in this area."

The dynamiting, which occured Tuesday night, went undiscovered until construction workers arrived yesterday morning.

Damage, estimated by contractors at $5000 is covered by insur-

Bomb Ruins New $50,000 Home of Ohio Physician

Wife Calls Attack Reprisal for Family's Refusal to Heed Threats Made Last June

WARREN, Ohio (NNPA)—The $50,000 house being built by Dr. Samuel A. Brown, on Parkman St., N.W., was damaged by a home-made dynamite bomb, Police Chief William E. Johnson reported last Thursday.

Construction officials reported about $3,000 damages to the Lexington Ave. side of the house. Windows were shattered there and at the home of Robert Nettleship nearby.

'Spite,' Wife Says

Mrs. Anita Brown, wife of the physician, said she believed the bombing was done for spite, and followed two threats the family received last June when the site was being excavated.

She said they were warned that they should not build a house in the area."

Neighbors Indifferent

Neighbors told police they had felt the blast, but thought little of it, believing it was a slag dump explosion at the Copperweld Steel Company plant a short distance away.

Chief Johnson said the bomb was fashioned out of two or more dynamite sticks.

Detective Sgt. John Lepola said he had found two pieces of slow-burning fuse in an outside basement window, well on the left of the blasted area, one about 150 inches long and the other about seven inches.

Residents 13 Years

The Browns are now living in their home on Oregon St., N.W., also on the west side of the city, and expected to move into their new home in about six weeks.

Dr. Brown and his family have lived here for the last 13 years.

Perils in "Blighted Areas"

Black Dispatch, Oklahoma City

After considerable reflection the Black Dispatch has decided to oppose House Hill 292, which is an act proposed to create a public housing authority, a slum clearance project in a large measure not needed in Oklahoma. We believe the majority of the people in this state are inclined to home ownership, and there are so many bad features in this bill, despite some of its progressive angles, we are reluctant to support same.

The bitter experience Negroes had with this dangerous and confiscatory pattern of government in the nearby city of Fort Smith should warn every Negro in Oklahoma that slum clearance has nestling in its breast something all minority groups should fear.

We recall some five years ago the Fort Smith Housing Authority decided it was going to build a slum clearance project for whites. and in determining the location of this project, wittingly or unwittingly, the section of the city where Negroes had lived for fully 100 years was decided as the blighted area ideal for this new housing development.

Imagine the consternation raging in the Negro community when it was discovered that arbitrarily and tyrannically the Fort Smith Housing Authority had exercised the right of eminent domain; had condemned this property and had set up offices in their community to process their absolute and complete removal from the section where they had their schools, churches, businesses and residential section. Under the terms of the authority the Negroes did not have to be consulted following representations that their section constituted a group of sub-standard homes.

Under the provisions of Section 2, Paragraph G, of the proposed bill, now before the legislature, a blighted area is described and defined as follows:

"'Blighted area' shall mean any area (including slum areas) with buildings or improvements which, by reason of delapidation, obsolescence, overcrowding, faculty arrangements or design, lack of ventilation, light and sanitary facilities, excessive land coverage or deleterious land use or obsolete layout, or any combination of these or other factors, are detrimental to the safety, health, morals or welfare of the community."

Right here in Oklahoma iCty, where we are still fighting the effects of restricted covenants and other forms of housing bias, it would be unfortunate indeed if an arbitrary authority were given the legal power to condemn property and expel Negroes from the area under any such loose, general and vague definition of a blighted area. And especially here in Oklahoma City, where the building commissioners across the years have winked at over-crowding in the Negro districts of the second ward, it would be easy to jump in under such an authority and erect a white buffer zone, such as was attempted several years ago at Fourth and Central, and where the white park still exists in a Negro neighborhood.

But for the hasty action taken by the NAACP, Fort Smith Negroes would have lost their residential and business section. This writer hurried there, organized a branch of the NAACP and filed a dilatory action in the courts. We knew we could not successfully resist the right of eminent domain, but the court action we filed held things in abeyance until we could acquire pictures of terraced lawns, beautiful homes, churches, schools and business places. The argument was so effectively presented to Nathan Straus that he issued an order cancelling the Fort Smith plan to obliterate Negro residence in the city.

Now this bill before the legislature conveys this same dangerous authority to local housing authorities, and if you will go back and re-read the language employed above in the definition of a "blighted area" you will see there is wide latitude to condemn most any place that fits the whim, caprice of morbidity, such as dominated the mind of the Fort Smith housing authority.

Understand now, we are not opposed to a housing program. We know the fine service that has been rendered Negroes all over the United States through public housing. Our opinion is that Oklahoma, a new state, has not slum areas in its cities that could in any wise be compared to slum areas in older communities and larger cities. We believe the FHA program, which gives Negroes of small means the chance to own a home, with small payments stretching over a long period, is more ideal for this section of the United States.

It was Patrick Henry who a long time ago said, "The only lamp by which my feet are guided is the lamp of experience." We believe the Fort Smith experience is sufficiently close enough to us, and sinister in its import to warn every Negro to go slow in giving any type of local authority additional power to condemn private property. It may be all right in the East and North to set up demolition areas, but out here in the West we have sufficient land to build new housing without resort to any such drastic measures as were almost visited upon the Negro citizens of Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Some ugly pictures are drawn in American life because of the fact of race prejudice. Liability insurance companies generally refuse to sell this type of insurance to Negroes, not because these companies have anything against Negroes, but because Negroes, victims of race prejudice, are more dangerous risks than whites. If a Negro has an accident a white jury will nine times out of ten render a verdict in favor of the white litigant. Thus it can be seen the Negro is a greater risk when he gets before a jury than a white man.

By this same yardstick it should be reasoned the right of eminent domain would be exercised more quickly in a Negro area than it would be in a white one. There would be less political repercussions. The Negro would not be able to fight back as promptly and as vigorously as the whites.

If you get a chance to talk to your state senator or representative tell him you are opposed to House Bill 292, and give him the reason we have assigned here. Someone clothed with authority under this proposed act might some day elect to skate on the thin ice of morality, calling Negroes in as did Governor William H. Murray, during his regime at the state capitol, and advise Negroes "I don't have the law but I have the power to do what I am doing." Always and ever, as we move about daily and lend approval to proposed program patterns. we should keep in mind the face of race prejudice.

Housing Plan Advanced For Oak Ridge Negroes

OAK RIDGE, Tenn., April 14 (AP)—Another step in a permanent housing program for Oak Ridge's 1,431 Negro residents was announced last night by the Atomic Energy Commission.

The A. E. C. said the low bid on 286 duplex dwelling units to be built for Negro families was submitted by the T. C. Bateson Construction Co., of Dallas, Tex. The bid was $1,599,492, and is subject to A. E. C. review before a contract is awarded.

The commission said all Negroes will move into completely new housing when the 286 houses are completed. The contract will allow 270 calendar days for completion of the project.

Now under construction here are dormitories for 400 single Negroes, and fifteen single-type family houses for married Negroes. Each of the 286 duplex units will contain a combination living room-dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms and bath, the A. E. C. said.

Cross Burned at Site Of Negro Housing Unit

Nashville, Tenn., April 7 (AP).—A 12-foot cross was burned last night near the site of a proposed Negro housing unit in a section of town predominately occupied by white persons.

Shortly afterward, the wife of a Negro dentist, Dr. Needham R. Roberts, the builder, said, "I don't know whether we'll go ahead with the work now or not." Roberts was out of town.

Housing Commissioners Organize and Prepare for Code Drafting

Members of the newly created Norfolk Commission on Minimum Housing Standards convened for their organization meeting Monday, Dec. 20, in the office of City Manager C. A. Harrell. Walter E. Hoffman, commission chairman (seated, center) presided over this initial session. Members of the commission (seated, left to right) are: Mrs. Charles P. Brown, Junior League leader; Mr. Hoffman; and R. N. Koolage, real estate broker. Standing (left to right): Dr. W. B. Martin, prominent surgeon; Horace G. Christopher, Hunton Branch YMCA secretary; Harry Price, merchant; P. Bernard Young Jr., editor-in-chief, Journal and Guide; Robert S. Johnston, president, Old Dominion Paper Co.; Frank Schlegel, executive; and Hunter Hogan Jr., real estate broker. (See story on this page).

Housing Commissioners Propose Thorough Inquiry And Hearings

NORFOLK—The organization meeting of the newly-created Norfolk Commission on Minimum Housing Standards, held Dec. 20 in City Manager C. A. Harrell's office resulted in the election of a vice-chairman and the making of plans for a thorough-going study of local housing shortcomings preliminary to the drafting of a code to control the requirements for dwellings within the city.

As its vice-chairman the commission chose Robert S. Johnston, president of the Old Dominion Paper Company, and a leader in civic and business affairs.

Notable because it is the second municipal commission here to include Negro members and its work will noticeably affect living conditions for thousands of minority group and low-income families, the body thoroughly discussed the major approaches it would make in carrying out its assignment from City Council. Presiding was Walter E. Hoffman, attorney and recent unsuccessful candidate for Congress on the GOP ticket.

The Negro members present, along with eight other commissioners, were Horace G. Christopher, Hunton YMCA executive secretary, and P. Bernard Young Jr., editor-in-chief of the Journal and Guide.

The other members, all prominent citizens, are: Mrs. Charles P. Brown, Junior League leader; Hunter Hogan Jr., realtor; Mr. Johnston, R. N. Koolage, realtor; Dr. W. B. Martin, physician-surgeon; Harry B. Price Jr., merchant, and Frank Schlegel, building and loan association executive.

PROCEDURE OUTLINED

Outlined as commission procedure were these steps:

(1) Study of city manager's letter of Nov. 8, 1948, to City Council on minimum housing standards, and study of the proposed code draft prepared by Dr. John M. Huff, director of public health.

(2) Study of the existing municipal codes on minimum housing standards adopted by other cities.

(3) First-hand inspection tours of blighted housing areas in all section of the city by the commissioners.

(4) Hear experts on the subject from cities having related codes and from the American Public Health Association's committee on housing hygiene, and perhaps other agencies.

OTHER PLANS MADE

(5) Send commission subcommittee to other cities having such codes or ordinances, for study of their operation and for interviews with authorities there.

(6) View documentary movies prepared by Baltimore, Md., and other cities and agencies revealing the before-and-after conditions where minimum housing standards have been enforced.

(7) Either make independent surveys or acquire pertinent statistics from the Norfolk Planning Commission, the Norfolk Housing and Redevelopment Authority (slum clearance and low-cost housing agency), the tax assessor's office and other sources.

TO MEET MONDAYS

(8) Consult with the Federal Rent Control Office with the view of avoiding conflict with and to gear the code with rent ceiling regulations.

(9) Meet regularly on Mondays at four o'clock in the Council chambers or the mayor's office, beginning (probably) Jan. 10 next.

(10) Schedule public hearings in Council chambers to hear the views of opponents and proponents of the proposed code, either as individuals or as spokesmen for organizations.

(11) Draft the code for submission to City Council for final disposition.

HARRELL AND HUFF SPEAK of numerous such codes, but Monday's meeting was open- was primarily based on the code ed with a general statement by in effect at Milwaukee, Wis. City Manager Harrell, after In addition, he said, his code which he relinquished the chair draft embodied criteria found to Mr. Hoffman. to be minimum during the war

The commission heard a by the military services. Dr. statement on the needs and pur- Huff warned that all of the bad poses of a housing code by effects of low-standard housing Health Director Huff, who re- are not concrete; many are in- vealed that his tentative code tangible and secondary, or indraft was written after a study direct.

Norfolk Rats Resent Human Residents

Local Slum Conditions Called "Indescribable"

NORFOLK — A family of 11 live in two rooms on Nicholson street; on Cumberland street, a family of five pays seven dollars rent per week to live in one room; on Howard street, a landlord furnishes luxurious accommodations for his tenants when he throws in a separate shed kitchen with the rent price for one room.

These and other glaring conditions of Norfolk's much- discussed slums were unearthed as a Guide reporter made an unofficial survey of part of the slum district early Wednesday morning.

In the meantime as the door-to-door survey of this slum area in the heart of the city neared the end of its second week, Mrs. G. W. C. Brown, president of the Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation, the sponsoring group, has reported that nearly all of the districts have been covered.

Following tabulation of the results of the survey, the city will initiate plans for a complete slum clearance program.

The conditions of the streets themselves are bad enough as people pick their way over sudden holes, pools of stagnant water, past heaps of trash and garbage and down narrow, poorly lighted lanes, but the interior of the houses defy all description.

LEAN-TO BUILT

This reporter found one house, originally a four-room home which had been divided into eight smaller rooms. These rooms had been rented out as two-room apartments to four families. To satisfy his tenants, the landlord had built a lean-to at the back of the house, as an added room.

For this, he charged his tenants $20 a month. About a month ago, the water pipes in the bathroom broke, and the landlord has refused to fix them, stating that the tenants must be responsible for repairs.

Since then, the people in the house have had no toilet facilities of any sort; and must walk two blocks to the nearest bathtub to bathe.

In one house, a man said: "Id move tomorrow if I could just find a place to go; I can't stand this any longer."

ALL-PURPOSE ROOM

"This," as he referred to his home, was one room which was used for all purposes and a lean-to kitchen attached to the outdoor toilet. The kitchen contained a coal stove, one rickety table and chair. There was no sink in sight.

Upstairs over this same house, two women and four children lived, ate and slept in one room. The children, who ranged in age from three weeks to four years, slept in one bed, and the two women slept in the other bed.

This house showed some signs of care on the part of the tenants, despite the fact that the back stairs leading down to the outhouse, were completely broken in the center.

In answer to a question concerning the kitchen ceiling, which was painted a violent purple, the tenant said: "I was eight months standin' behind a baby, but I just couldn't stand that ceiling no longer. So I tacked up cardboard all over it, because there was holes in it, and then I got up on a chair and painted it, inch by inch."

HOLES AT THE CORNERS

Further down Nicholson street, was found a house with holes at the corners where the walls and ceiling meet in every room, with daylight pouring in through the holes. Directly over the bed in the center of the room, there was a complete gap in the ceiling through which rain poured. For this, the landlord was raising the rent the first of September.

In one house, the landlord took the hot-water tank out, and the tenants have no place to baths. Also seen were houses that were the depth of one narrow room; most of the houses were right down on the ground, and one tenant said that water often comes up out of the ground through the floor of the kitchen.

Getting down to the subject of rats with some of the people visited, I heard some harrowing tales. However, nothing proved more harrowing than my fright when a huge rat jumped over my foot as I sat talking to one tenant, on Starr street.

RATS RUNNING OVER TABLES

This same tenant showed her kitchen where two rats were running over the tables and chairs.

Tenant Co-ops Buy War Homes

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — Co-operative groups, consisting mainly of tenants, last Friday acquired title to the George Washington Carver and Paul Lawrence Dunbar Homes, Government-owned housing projects in Arlington, Va.

The groups acquired the property after efforts of Elder Solomon Lightfoot Michaux to do so had failed.

Michaux sought unsuccessfully to negotiate through a group of tenants a management and supervision agreement with the Gospel Spreading Association, Inc., one of his enterprises.

Carver and Dunbar Homes were the first sales of permanent war housing anywhere in the country to colored co-operatives.

Sales Prices Listed

Carver Homes, a 44-unit project, was sold to the George Washington Carver Mutual Homes Association, Inc., for $123,000 cash.

Dunbar Homes, with 86 units, was sold to the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Mutual Homes Association, Inc., for $261,000 cash.

The purchases were made possible by Federal Housing Administration mortgage insurance on the loans made to the two purchasing associations by a private lending institution.

JOHN CLARK TO RETIRE AS URBAN LEAGUE HEAD

Will Be Succeeded By Bohanon

After 23 years as executive secretary of the St. Louis Urban League, John T. Clark is retiring from that position, effective Dec. 31, but the league's board of directors has prevailed on him to remain with the organization in a special advisory capacity. The new executive secretary will be M. Lee Bohanon, head of the Omaha Urban League, who will assume duties here January 1, 1950.

Under Clark's leardership, the St. Louis Urban League has developed from a relatively small organization to one of the largest and finest in the country, and is one of the few leagues owning its own headquarters. The league is housed in a three-story building at 3017 Delmar boulevard.

Clark, known as the dean of Urban League secretaries, has made many significant contributions to St. Louis and to the Urban League movement as a whole. Perhaps his most outstanding contribution, however, was his founding of the block unit organization which now has 150 residential blocks organized to encourage property improvement, to prevent establishment of nuisances, to provide cooperative efforts in saving and purchasing.

Prior to his coming to St. Louis, Clark was executive secretary of the Pittsburgh Urban League which he organized.

Southern Society Realty Provides Unique Plan to Alleviate the Housing

Commanding an important place in the business life of this community the Southern Society Realty of Suite 6, at 501 West 145th St., in Manhattan under the direction of Mr. Arthur Morris provides a service that is really outstanding .

Established here 6 months ago Mr. Morris has leased 12 apartments in the finest sections (Convent, near City College, Morningside, overlooking park, Hamilton Terrace). All are front sunlit apartments, with rentals from $5 to $8 per week and includes electric, gas and the use of radios.

Inasmuch as the big companies do not wish to handle properties in this section and are not granting or renewing mortgages, if you are troubled in getting your mortgage renewed a visit to the Southern Society Realty will be revealing.

Mr. Morris's plan is to continue his fight against the unscrupulous landlords by providing his co-operative plan. If you have $100 or more join his co-operative plan and get a place to live for yourself and your family.

The various Wall street banks and real estate brokers, have leased to Mr. Morris 21 private houses with from 12 to 14 rooms in each, with modern improvements, hot and cold water, private toilets and baths in some, also kitchenettes and renting from $65.00 to $75 per month.

The co-operative plan of the Southern Society Realty will get you an apartment of five-rooms or an entire floor in a private house for not more than $75.00 per month

Reliable people with jobs or professions should call at their office located at suite 6, on the 2nd floor front, at 501 West 145th St., in Manhattan between 11 a. m. and 3 p. m., or call on the phone at Foundation 8-1740 and get full information on this unique plan to alleviate the housing shortage at reasonable rentals.

Mr. Morris, himself has a background of 12 years' experience and his earnest desire is to provide decent places to live at a reasonable figure.

Look Magazine Takes Look-See at Harlem

New York's Harlem has become a "near-medieval ghetto" where living conditions for its 450,000 Negroes and Puerto Ricans are so crowded that serious trouble can be expected momentarily, says Look magazine in the current issue.

Harlem's anger is mounting steadily as the overcrowded area receives 600 to 1,000 Puerto Ricans, pouring into its 517 blocks every week, says Look.

While Manhattanites pay about 20 per cent of their incomes for rent, Harlemites pay close to 45 per cent, says Look. Harlem families have been forced to double up until apartment houses now contain two or three times the intended number. At present Harlem's tuberculosis rate is four times greater than the rest of New York. Its maternal death rate is twice as high, and more than six per cent of the area suffers from venereal disease. Unemployment in Harlem, says Look, is now at a record high for the post-war period, and is getting worse for both Negroes and Puerto Ricans.

4 6a 1949

New York

NO EQUALITY IN SEGREGATION

The Afro-American

A decision by Superior Court Judge Alfred A. Stein prohibiting the City of East Orange, N.J., from segregating colored veterans in selecting tenants for four housing projects is perhaps one of the most far-reaching to be handed down on civil rights in our time. Baltimore, Md.

For, in ruling for nine married veterans who had brought court action against the East Orange City Council, Judge Stein ruled that any segregation of tenants was, in itself, discrimination. Sat. 1-22-49

We have been waiting a long time for some jurist to make such a ruling which should lay, once and for all, the old argument that segregation is not necessarily discrimination.

It has been our argument all along that there can be no "separate but equal" facilities or services, no matter where they are. The East Orange City Council, through its attorney, had admitted that it was segregating colored veterans and their families in specially designated units but argued that this was not discriminaton. 4 6a

But, because the city's housing projects are being financed by public funds, Judge Stein ruled that the assignment of colored veterans to special units constituted unlawful discrimination in violation of the State Housing Act and the 14th Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

It is not likely that the decision will be appealed, but should it ever get to the U.S. Supreme Court, we believe that body will uphold it, thereby establishing a precedent for future "separate but equal" cases.

Judge Stein's decision takes its place beside the U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing racial restrictive housing covenants. The right to a decent place to live is a fundamental one, but all over the country all sorts of efforts have been made to bypass it, where colored citizens have been concerned.

It took the concerted efforts of nine determined veterans and their attorneys to pave the way for Judge Stein's decision. All of which proves that if we fight long enough and hard enough, through the courts, we can break the segregation patterns which circumscribe us. Sat. 1-22-49

Individuals and groups in all sections should be heartened by Judge Stein's decision and redouble their efforts to obtain justice, now that a legal precedent has been established.

Rural Housing

DISCUSS RURAL HOUSING NEEDS -- Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan and his two special assistants, Claude A. Barnett, left, and Dr. F. D. Patterson right, are shown during a recent conference discussing the housing needs of Negro farmers. Under the new Housing Act, the U. S. Department of Agriculture will launch a rural housing program. Dr. Patterson, who also is president of Tuskegee institute, has made a stud of the housing needs of rural colored people and has begun a small-scale, low-cash-cost building program in rural Alabama.--USDA Photo by Matthews.

Bet You Want to Hug Them, Don't You

Our Times Cute!—The famous 3-year-old Fultz quadruplets who have been assured a college education, but who have no provision for high school training, are getting that problem solved. Following a Courier story which cited the need for means to get the girls through high school, Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, president-founder of Palmer Memorial Institute, Sedalia, N. C., started a scholarship fund for their secondary education. Mary Alice, Mary Louise, Mary Catherine and Mary Ann await their turn in the rear of an auto just before appearing on a program sponsored for their benefit. The famed quads demonstrated natural ability in their acts.—Rivera Photo.

Siamese Twins, Joined at Top of Heads, Born in L. A. Hospital

General Hospital yesterday disclosed the birth of Siamese twin girls, joined together at the tops of their heads but otherwise normal babies.

Dr. Phoebus Berman, medical director of the hospital, said it was the first such successful birth within his memory, if not in medical history.

The joined babies weigh between five and six pounds each.

"We do not know yet," Dr. Berman said, "if the children have separate brains."

Whether surgery will be attempted will depend strongly on the answer to that question, Dr. Berman said, indicating radio-active tracers may be employed to give surgeons a picture of the

"We have made an X-ray and it does not show a plate between the two girls' brains," he said, but added it did not necessarily preclude the possibility of separate brains.

"In fact," Dr. Berman said, "because the heads do not meet evenly, one being slightly turned to the side, there is a strong possibility the brains are separate."

The girls, born Saturday to a divorced woman who has six other children, respond individually to stimulation. Frequently one sleeps while the other cries.

Moffatt," they said he bellowed.

He also ordered Chuck Bell, service station operator, to quit playing the juke box.

"I don't like that song and I don't want it ever played when I'm here," said the judge.

Frazier, a retired city employee of 6361 Marconi street, ignored the protests and continued to incite laughter by tickling the proprietress, Mrs. Ruth G. Burt under the chin.

Judge Moffatt called the police

"I'm going to make a test whether one diner can disturb others," said the judge as he declared he would appear Thursday night to press the charge.

L.A. Siamese Tofs Still In Hospital

LOS ANGELES — Fame and fortune, surpassed only by that turned down by the famous Dionne Quints of Canada years ago, beckons the head-to-head Siamese twins born recently to Mrs. Willie Jones.

Biggest of the offers to place the twins in circuses and sideshows came from Samuel J. Gorman who operates the famed million dollar pier at Atlantic City. N. J. Gorman has offered Mrs. Jones $1,000,000 to contract the twins on a long-term basis.

The twins, unlike any of the previous pairs known to science, are joined together by their heads in a horizontal position. There are normal parts in every portion of their body, but physicians are undecided as to whether they have seperate brains or if there is only one located in the part of their heads which are attached. However, the twins laugh, cry, and sleep independently.

So far, Mrs. Jones has not revealed whether or not she has an interest in placing her twins on public display for financial gain. There have been thousands of visitors to her home since the children arrived, but they came to see the mother. The twins have not been removed from General Hospital where they were born.

the truth and that whereas the nationally known company subscribes to their necessities, many of their needs are going lacking. Mrs. Saylor expressed the belief that if the public knew the truth about the situation, many people would be willing to send gifts.

One of the great needs is toys, especially educational toys. A group of A. and T. College students gave a tricycle and a double swing which they all try to use at the same time. Their other toys consist of sand buckets and shovels, and nursery books.

Mother at Ten

The world's youngest mother is generally conceded to be Lina Medina, of Peru (TIME, May 29, 1939), who gave birth to a 6-lb. boy, by Caesarean section, when she was four years and eight months old. The youngest U.S. mother is a matter of dispute. The American Medical Association, which keeps statistics, has listed records of such events, but has not nothing has been done gated the youngest U.S. mother as a ten-year-old Illinois girl who gave birth to a full-term baby in 1936.

Last week obstetricians had another birth to wonder at in Memorial Hospital at Wilmington, Del., ten-year-old Mollie Moss, a Negro, gave normal birth to a daughter. Weight: 7 lbs. 5 oz.

They'd Appreciate a Toy From You

Quads 3 Years Old Saturday

By M. RIVERA JR.
(Courier Staff Correspondent)

INDEPENDENCE, N. C.—Three years ago, come May 23, Mr. and Mrs. James Fultz became the ex-cited parents of a quadruplets—four baby girls.

Today these little queens are hale, hearty, happy and normal. Normal, so the child psychologists say, for children of their ages who do not have contact with other children outside their own world. Their home is partially circled by a wire fence.

To the lay observer, familiar with the behavior and development pattern of single issue babies, it would appear that the quads are not as far advanced as they should be for their ages. Mrs. E. B. Saylor, nurse, companion and instructor of the little girls, explains that any apparent slowness is not to be

regarded as any indication of abnormalty, but a result of the lack of contact, especially with other children their ages.

They all have Mother Goose nursery books from which they read audibly in unison and in varying unknown tongues. They are all learning to recite ABC's and to count. Lucy Locket is their favorite nursery rhyme, but their most eager response to anything they have heard so far is registered when Mrs. Saylor plays some bebop from her collection of popular records.

Mary Louise, the second born, sings more than the others. In fact, she is leading in the superior department without a near rival. She outweighs her sisters by sixteen ounces (31 pounds) but so far no subsidence in accelerated activity has been noted.

"It is the opinion of the public," she said, "that the Pet Milk Company is committed to provide all the needs for them." She commented that this is far from

RUMORS INSIST WALTER WHITE HAS ROMANCE WITH WHITE SWEETHEART, BASE FOR DIVORCE

NAACP Officials Mum Regarding Official On Leave With Town Hall Group in Europe

MEXICAN DIVORCE POSES MANY QUESTIONS

(By Albert Anderson)

NEW YORK — (ANP) — The recent Mexican divorce obtained by Mrs. Walter White from her famous husband has renewed a number of questions in the minds of many people particularly on White's status with the NAACP.

People have been mystified about White ever since the beginning of his continued absences from his post with the NAACP and his attempt to resign.

Rumors of divorce had led many of his friends to believe that one of the reasons for his wanting to resign was the impending divorce. Now that the divorce is final they are wondering whether his rumored romance with Poppy Cannon had something to do with his desire to resign.

Many reasons have been given for his attempted resignation. Probably the most publicized of these reasons has been Mr. White's health. Although his physicians did warn him not to work too hard, he is at present on the arduous Town Hall Round the World junket. He also attended the Paris conference.

The NAACP leader's passion for delicate dishes also has been given as a possible cause for spending less time with the NAACP. Always known for his fastidiousness at the dinner table, White recently has taken to attending cooking exhibits.

He has developed a great taste and expertness for unusual recipes. It is believed that his tours of cooking shows has led him to do quite a bit of tasting. In fact he has added many pounds so that he is now pleasingly round.

Observers seem to agree that the divorce probably has not harmed White or the NAACP. But the big question evidently is what would a romance across racial lines do to White or the association.

Deputy Sheriff George A. Mosley, Jr., said the mother, 20-year old unmarried Ida Roberts, was indicted by a Grand Jury Wednesday. She was held without bond.

Det. Capt. Lewis Miller said she had the baby while hoeing in a garden at her home last Friday. Miller quoted her as saying she "covered up the baby and went on hoeing." The officer said she told him she disposed of the infant because she already had one illegitimate child and couldn't support another.

Mother, Who Buried Baby Alive Held

MONTGOMERY, Ala. —(AP)— A young Negro mother, who admitted burying her newborn baby alive, has been indicted on a murder charge.

The baby girl, born last Friday, lived in a shallow earthen tomb for 15 hours before a neighbor found her. She died Monday in a hospital.

Mrs. Walter White Divorces Executive

NEW YORK —(NNPA) — Mrs. Walter White, wife of the executive secretary of the NAACP, was granted an uncontested divorce from her husband at Juarez, Mexico, June 30, it was learned here last Thursday.

The divorce was granted Mrs. White on grounds of "incompatibility."

Andrey Weinberger, New York attorney for Mrs. White, said the divorce was an "amicable, friendly settlement" in which Mr. White made provision for the support of the couple's two children and agreed to a property settlement.

Mr. White's lawyer in the case was from the law firm of Barron Rice and Rockmore of New York.

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. White was available for comment last Thursday, but Weinberger said Mrs.White holds no "hard feelings" toward her former husband and still has the "utmost respect for him."

MARRIED 27 YEARS

Mrs. White will continue to live with her children at 409 Edgecombe Avenue in Harlem. The couple had been married for twenty-seven years.

Weinberger said no third party was mentioned in the divorce action and that both Mr. and Mrs. White had been present for the Mexican divorce.

Mrs. White denied that she had divorced her husband when queried on her trip to Mexico two weeks ago, but a strong rumor had persisted in Harlem that all was not well between the two.

Mexican Decree Ends Marriage Of 27 Years

NEW YORK—Mrs. Walter White, wife of the executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was granted a divorce in Juarez, Mexico, on June 30. Suit was filed on the claim they were unable to agree on family matters.

The prominent couple had been married for 27 years and have two children, Jane and Walter Jr.

A property settlement, which provided for Mrs. White's support in the future, was entered into amicably. A statement released in

MR. WHITE

Mrs. White's behalf said that she had still "the utmost respect for Mr. White."

Divorce Confirms Rumors

The fact of the divorce was released here finally due to the many rumors that had been circulated about the couple. It has been known that Mrs. White had spent three months in Mexico and many surmised that a divorce was her reason for going south of the border. However, the truth of the matter is that she only decided to get the divorce after a three-week stay here following which she returned to Mexico and undertook action.

Her attorney is Andrew Weinberger, a long-time friend of the family. Mrs. White's attornevs were Aaron, Rice and Rockmore.

MRS. WHITE

Now Wants Annulment

Told He Couldn't Graduate Unless

ASKS BLOOD TEST

Not Father of Her Child—Claim

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) —Declaring that he had been forced to go through a marriage ceremony in order to get his dental degree from Howard University, Dr. Freddie L. Vaughn last Monday filed suit for annulment of his marriage to Mrs. Hazel Sherrod Vaughn.

According to Dr. Vaughn, in May, just prior to the time of graduation from the School of Dentistry at Howard University, Miss Sherrod informed him that she was with child and accused him of being its father.

She also told him, he said, that if he did not marry her, she would report the matter to school authorities at once.

In the complaint filed by Harry A. Dyson, attorney, Dr. Vaughn asserted that he denied the paternity of her unborn child and told her he would not marry her.

Says Dr. Dixon Took Hand

Later, he stated, he was called and told by Dr. Dixon that unless he married Miss Sherrod, he would not graduate or receive his degree although he was certified for the degree.

Dr. Vaugh said he was "so distressed and distraught" that he contemplated ending the whole matter by taking his own life.

Meanwhile, he alleged, Miss Sherrod's relatives began to "torture" him into marriage with her, suggesting that he could just go through with the ceremony in order to give the expected child her name.

In order to get his degree, even though he was not allowed to graduate with his class, and never intending to consummate any marriage with Miss Sherrod, Dr. Vaughn declared, he entered into a written agreement with her, her lawyer, her relatives and her minister that he would marry her if she would withdraw her complaint with the College of Dentistry and let him get his degree.

Have Not Lived Together

Dr. Vaughn said he and Miss Sherrod went through a marriage ceremony. He protested all the while that he never intended to live with her or recognize the unborn child as his, and that he was going through the ceremony because of the pressure that had been put upon him, he stated.

Since the date of the ceremony, Dr. Vaughn said, he has not lived with Miss Sherrod, has not seen her, and has never consummated the marriage in any way whatever. He has lived at 3754 Hayes St., N.E. and she at 927 Westminister St., N.W., he stated, adding that there is no hope of a reconciliation.

In addition to asking for an annulment, Dr. Vaughn asked the court to order a blood test to determine whether he is the father of her unborn child.

HELP RAISE LIVING STANDARD

Keep South's 'War Plants' Running, Report Advises

Courier-Journal 7-21-49

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The South should do everything possible to keep in operation the 296 industrial plants built there during the war, a National Planning Association report said yesterday.

Such a move, it held, will help raise the standard of living below the Mason-Dixon line.

The report was drafted by a 56-member "Committee of the South," organized as part of the Planning Association, which is a private organization devoted to planning in business, agriculture, labor and other fields.

The report indicated that immediate development of the surplus plants is handicapped by the Government's 15-month-old "freeze" of disposals.

The freeze, dictated by international tensions, is preventing the sale or lease to private industry of 64 Southern ordnance, chemical, oil, ship-building and other plants. They are kept in stand-by condition ready for war use if necessary.

However, the Committee of the South noted that 40 complete plants and parts of two others have been declared wholly surplus. It suggested that "multiple tenancy"—the use of a single large plant by several small businesses—may be the most fruitful means of bringing them into production.

The report, second in a series on the Southern economy issued under NPA sponsorship, showed that the Government's wartime plant program contributed measurably to the South's industrial capacity. But more important, it suggested, was this "intangible" gain:

"The wartime experience showed many Southern communities that industrialization was possible. . . .

"It demonstrated the need for civic improvements, better government, and better schools. It demonstrated the abilities of Southern labor and management.

"After the war was over, it led to vigorous community action aimed at retaining those benefits.

"That action may eventually enable the population of the Southern States to achieve the standard of living that is possible with a full utilization of their resources."

Although the Government made a relatively heavier investment in the South than in other areas, more than half of it was in explosives and chemical lines, which do not lend themselves readily to conversion for civilian use.

Making allowance for this, it was stated, there is a question whether the South showed a larger gain in manufacturing potential during the war than did the Nation.

"This very fact makes it all the more important that the South maintain in operation as much as possible of its wartime increase in industrial capacity," the report said.

The survey was written by Frederick L. Deming, assistant Vice President, and Weldon A. Stein, industrial economist, of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. They were aided by members of the committee, made up of Southern industrialists, farm and union officials, educators, journalists and others.

The authors estimated the war-time investment in new Southern manufacturing facilities was $4,400,000,000. In most cases the outlay did not open new paths to meet new channels of industrial growth; it tended to center in industries where the South enjoyed comparative peace-time advantages.

Of the 296 plants financed by the Government during the war in the South, 193 have been declared wholly surplus. Private buyers have taken 125; 24 have been leased, and 44 remain.

Another nine plants have been declared partly surplus; only two of these now have surplus facilities remaining for disposal.

The Government has declined to declare surplus 64 plants, costing an estimated $1,100,000,000, or 34 percent of the total Government outlay in the South.

Another 30 plants, on which information is lacking, were small operations and contributed to the South's industrial potential.

Reporting on the war's impact on Southern economy, the report showed there were 5,000 more manufacturing plants in 1945 than in 1939, with 650,000 more wage earners. Total wages paid were tripled and the value of output almost doubled.

Forty percent of the wage earners were in durable manufacturing lines, as against 32 percent in 1939. Per capita income increased considerably more than in the country as a whole. The rise from 1940 to 1946 ranged from 112 percent in Virginia to more than 170 percent in Alabama, Arkansas and Mississippi.

South Called Fastest-Growing Industrial Area By Northern Experts At Conclusion Of Tour

Advertiser Tri. 7-29-49 Montgomery Ala.

NEW YORK, July 28—(AP)—A group of New York securities analysts praised the southeast and Deep South today as the country's fastest-growing industrial region.

The analysts, research experts for some of the world's largest brokerage and investment banking firms, returned this week from a seven-day, 1,500-mile inspection trip of the properties of subsidiaries of the Southern Company.

They made a thorough study of the Southern Company's four operating subsidiaries — Georgia Power Company, Alabama Power Company, Gulf Power Company, and Mississippi Power Company —and reported their findings today at a meeting attended by officials of the parent and controlled companies.

Optimistic Reports

They submitted extremely optimistic reports on the utility companies' current operations and future prospects. This optimism was based in large part on their study of the region's natural resources, its people and its determination to pull out of a one-sided agricultural economy and establish a balanced industrial-agricultural economy.

The analysts said important factors in the South's economic progress included a program of crop diversification and rotation, hard-hitting efforts to attract diversified industries to the area, and the cooperation of communities and public officials with established companies.

'Soundly Prosperous'

One of the New Yorkers described the Southeast as a "prosperous looking area—not rich, but soundly prosperous."

"We saw no discouragingly poverty stricken areas on our tour," he said. "I was esupecially impressed with the good political relationships. The state and municipal officials recognize the importance of the operating companies in their areas from the point of view of continued developments. The region has a happy atmosphere for our capital to go to work in."

Typical Comments

These are the comments of some of the analysts on their views of the South's economy:

P. D. Crockkett, Keystone Custodian Fund—"In every city and town we met young, enthusiastic representatives of the Chamber of Commerce. All were on the lookout for opportunities to bring new industries into their community and to build up their community."

W. W. Amos, the First Boston Corporation—"Should there be a depression, the greater diversification between agriculture and industry, together with the lower production costs of the South, should enable that area to withstand any decline in general business activity better than many other parts of the country."

A. A. Graham, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Beane—"The South appears to be making definite progress toward a balanced and sound economy and has a good chance of showing better percentage growth than other areas of the country in the future."

Harry W. Witt, Kidder, Peabody & Company—"There seems to be sound basis for believing that this rapid growth should continue for some years to come."

Paul S. Donnan, Lehman Corporation—"I returned to New York with a most optimistic feeling concerning the Southern Company system and the territory it serves."

Lloyd C. Mathers, Smith, Barney & Company—"One cannot help being impressed by what is going on in the area. The thing is taking fire and the day is probably not far distant when the Southeast will no longer be considered lagging in development. The trend would seem to have been soundly established, and with the almost limitless natural resources, the climate, and a good supply of native-born labor, there is no reason to believe that the trend will soon be interrupted."

The group visited Montgomery, Martin Dam and Birmingham last weekend. In Montgomery, they were entertained by Tom Martin, A. S. Coleman, and Algernon Blair, officials of the Alabama Power Company.

Aid For South To Help Nation Recommended

Mon. 6-20-49

Federal Policy Changes Suggested To Boost Industry, Agriculture

Montgomery, Ala.

Farm Plan Offered

U. S. Economic Experts Will Study Report By Planning Board

WASHINGTON, June 19—(AP)—The National Planning Association today recommended federal policies to strengthen industry and farming in the South as being in "the best interests of the entire nation."

The 154-page report was filed with President Truman's council of economic advisers. The council paid the association $12,000 for the study as a research project.

As one of its nationwide proposals, the report suggests an increase in personal income tax exemptions to bolster public purchasing power—a change having "special significance to the South" —and a careful watch lest high business taxes discourage industrial investment.

It also recommended a farm-income support plan somewhat similar to that of Secretary of Agriculture Brannan's.

Cheaper Than Brannan Plan

The authors, Economists Calvin B. Hoover and B. U. Ratchford, of Duke University, told a news conference they believe their farm proposal would be "less costly than the Brannan plan or the present farm program." No definite price tax has been put on the Brannan plan.

Dr. Edwin G. Nourse, chairman of the council of economic advisers, predicted the study will be of "substantial value to the council and to many others who are concerned with economic developments in the South as an important segment of the national economy."

More Industry Needed

The South's economic worker is higher," the report said. "It means an agriculture, it was stated, is fewer uneconomically small farms capita wealth and of more medium-sized farms South's low in- employing fewer people with it said, from larger output per capita and with developed natural greater diversification in crops.

Other Suggestions

ust have more. As further policies which might kind of industry help speed the catching-up process, the report suggested:

1. **The government can allot an "appropriate" share of defense industries to the South and aid in setting up regional centers of technical research.**

2. Extend bank deposit insurance to cover 100 per cent of all deposits. This, Hoover explained, would discourage industry from pulling its deposits out of Southern banks in periods of recession as has happened in the past.

3. Double the federal aid given to assist poorer states in making Social Security paymentts.

4. **Federal aid to education be started at once, but not used as "an instrument of social reform."**

5. Require the Treasury, if there is "any pronounced tendency for funds to leave any one region, to move Treasury deposits to counteract such movement."

6. "Some increase in minimum wages could take place without producing unemployment" if present business activity continues. An hourly minimum somewhere between 60 and 75 cents might be "desirable."

7. Undertake projects of the TVA type elsewhere in the South

8. **Expand the programs to conserve and develop soil, water, forest, mineral, petroleum, and gas resources, as well as continue and broaden the federal farm research, soil improvement and farm loan programs.**

9. Work out by international agreement "the means by which the rest of the world can pay us for our exports instead of our having to give them away or to push them on a reluctant world through export subsidies."

FORMER EDITOR HEADS SOUTHERN HISTORIANS

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WILLIAMSBURG, Va., Nov. 11 —William C. Brinkley of Vanderbilt University, former editor of The Journal of Southern History, was elected president of the Southern Historical Association here today. He succeeds Dr. Lester J. Cappon, archivist for Colonial Williamsburg.

Speaking on the "Provincial South," Dr. Cappon said that "if there is a Southern way of life that persists through controversy and the impact of powerful outside forces, one must live with it and within it to develop understanding.

The South, which has partaken of much of the standardization of modern America, he added, is still different in many respects from other areas of the country, and it has been throughout its history.

Dr. Cappon said that the Southern way of life "grew, of course, out of an agricultural economy based early upon the plantation system of a new country with apparently unlimited land for expansion."

"It developed a society of clearly defined classes based on the English model," he added.

Other officers elected were Avery O. Craven of the University of Chicago, vice president, and J. Carlyle Sitterson of the University of North Carolina, secretary-treasurer.

Four hundred delegates are attending the meetings, which will end tomorrow.

Our Opinions

Hodding Carter, Voice Of Dixie

DOWN in Greenville, Mississippi, in the delta country, there lives a sage, a young, beardless one, who is building a reputation for himself as the authentic voice of dear old Dixie. He is the editor of the Delta Democrat-Times and his name is Hodding Carter.

In a recent issue of Look Magazine, Mr. Carter has an interesting article, "A Southerner Tells What's Wrong With the North." He points up the evils of the Yankee cities, the labor clashes, the riots, the slums, the vast hordes of foreign-born, the latent prejudices, and the mad pattern of our money-grubbing existence.

He makes us see how horrible is our wicked way of life. He infers very strongly, although he does not say so clearly, that Negroes in the North are hardly any better off than their cousins below the Mason and Dixon.

We were reminded of those articles that were published in the South shortly before the Civil War which compared the "wage-slavery" of the North to "Negro slavery" in the South. Those old Dixie apologists for slavery were often brilliant writers and the picture they painted of the North was terrifying indeed.

There were some important truths sandwiched in their propaganda, and Mr. Carter also reveals some basic ills in the kind of society we are building in the North today. After granting all this, we are still faced with the fact that the South appears no better by comparison, no more tolerant, no more human. Two wrongs never made one right, and the South cannot wash away its sins by merely noting that the North is sinful also.

We have long maintained that the race problem in America is a national problem, not merely a Southern one. When national and Federal proposals are advanced to resolve the problem, however, it is the South that rebels. The Dixie filibusters have an international reputation for their dirty work.

Mr. Carter, incidentally, is far more liberal than many of the professional Southerners who pick up quite a few dollars telling their stories in the Northern press. He has spent considerable time in the North, and that is probably where he got his liberal ideas.

We would be very happy to see the end of the finger-pointing between the North and the South. We want the two sections to cooperate in constructive programs to make America truly the land of the free. Negroes have a tough time in all sections of the country, and the fact that it is tougher in Dixie or, as some say, tougher in the North, is somewhat beside the point. The Negro should have equality of opportunity and full citizenship status throughout the United States. That includes Greenville, Mississippi, where Mr. Carter holds forth.

SOUTH LOSES A TALENT

More than 2,000,000 Southerners served in the armed forces during World War II; yet one-seventh of them did not return to the South after their separation from the service.

And of more than 1,000,000 students who were graduated this Spring from the high schools and colleges of the South, an estimated 15 per cent are seeking jobs elsewhere.

Our task is to develop in the South a social and an economic climate that will serve to retain in this region the talent that is being developed here. This is a prerequisite to the South's continued progress.

New Yorkers Impressed By South's Development

New York, July 28 (AP)—A group of New York securities analysts praised the Southeast and the Deep South today as the country's fastest-growing industrial region.

The analysts, research experts for some of the world's largest brokerage and investment-banking firms, returned this week from a seven-day 1,500-mile inspection trip of the properties of subsidiaries of the Southern Company.

They made a thorough study of the Southern Company's four operating subsidiaries—Georgia Power Company, Alabama Power Company, Gulf Power Company, and Mississippi Power Company—and reported their findings today at a meeting attended by officials of the parent and controlled companies.

Factors In Growth Cited.

They submitted optimistic reports on the utility companies' current operations and future prospects. This optimism was based in large part on their study of the region's natural resources, its people, and its determination to pull out of a one-sided agricultural economy and establish a balanced industrial - agricultural economy.

The analysts said important factors in the South's economic progress included a program of crop diversification and rotation, hard-hitting efforts to attract diversified industries to the area, and the co-operation of communities and public officials with established companies.

One of the New Yorkers described the Southeast as a "prosperous-looking area — not rich, but soundly prosperous."

'Has Happy Atmosphere.'

"We saw no discouragingly poverty-stricken areas on our tour," he said. "I was especially impressed with the good political relationships. The State and City officials recognize the importance of the operating companies in their areas from the point of view of continued developments. The region has a happy atmosphere for our capital to go to work in."

These are the comments of some of the analysts on their views of the South's economy:

P. D. Crockkett, Keystone Custodian Fund—"In every city and town we met young, enthusiastic representatives of the Chamber of Commerce. All were on the lookout for opportunities to bring new industries into their community and to build up their community."

W. W. Amos, the First Boston Corporation—"Should there be a depression, the greater diversification between agriculture and industry, together with the lower production costs of the South, should enable that area to withstand any decline in general business activity better than other parts of the country."

Making Definite Progress.

A. A. Graham, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Beane—"The South appears to be making definite progress toward a balanced and sound economy and has a good chance of showing better percentage growth than other areas of the country in the future."

Harry W. Witt, Kidder, Peabody & Company—"There seems to be sound basis for believing that this rapid growth should continue for some years to come."

Paul S. Donnan, Lehman Corporation—"I returned to New York with a most optimistic feeling concerning the Southern Company system and the territory it serves."

Lloyd C. Mathers, Smith, Barney & Company—"One cannot help being impressed by what is going on in the area. The thing is taking fire and the day is probably not far distant when the Southeast will no longer be considered lagging in development. The trend would seem to have been soundly established, and with the almost limitless natural resources, the climate, and a good supply of native-born labor, there is no reason to believe that the trend will soon be interrupted."

Mississippi and Georgia were the only other states to show increases greater than the regional average. Georgia has the second largest total of plants in the region, exceeded only by North Carolina.

Tennessee, Virginia and Louisiana had smaller gains in number of plants than the regional average. But each state exceeded the average gain for the country as a whole.

* * *

AMONG THE BIG industrial counties, East Baton Rouge, La., showed the greatest increase. Here synthetic rubber, chemicals and petroleum sent industrial activity zooming. In 1947 it had two and a quarter times as many establishments as in 1939.

Duval County (Jacksonville), Fla., had the second largest increase. It was the only other important Dixie manufacturing center to more than double its plants between the two census dates.

Jefferson County, Ala., registered an increase of 42 per cent in the number of its plants. This stood well up among the major industrial areas of the region, and exceeded the average gain shown by the 30 most important counties.

Its 1947 total of 530 plants provided jobs for 44,748 factory workers. This was a gain in jobs of 51 per cent over 1939.

Smaller Cities Find In Location Of New

BY JOSEPH K. HEYMAN
Southeastern Business Consultant

THE SOUTHEAST'S industrial expansion since prewar has seen a vast growth of new plants in the less-industrial areas.

Outside the region's major centers, new factory growth has been nearly twice as fast as in the concentrated districts. Hundreds of new plants have moved into small towns and cities that never had much in the way of factory production before.

This trend toward decentralization is clearly shown by figures made available by the U. S. Census Bureau.

According to the Census of Manufactures just released, the Southeast's biggest manufacturing counties increased their number of plants by about one-third between 1939 and 1947.

But the rest of the region—the less-industrialized sections—upped its number of plants by more than 60 per cent.

Site after site has been chosen in the smaller communities where labor is available and where raw materials are near at hand.

* * *

ALL THIS IS GOOD. As the Southeast's farms become more and more mechanized, farm workers who are displaced will have a better chance of getting factory jobs close to home. The South won't lose its people as fast as in the past because of lack of off-farm opportunity.

The accompying chart illustrates this growth. About 2,000 plants were added in the 30 largest manufacturing counties between 1939 and 1947 to bring the total at the end of the period up to 7,670 establishments. The rest of the region increased its number of manufacturing institutions by 8,400. Its total in 1947 was about 22,000.

* * *

THE TREND IN the Southeast is similar to that for the country as a whole. Nationally, the non-metropolitan areas have increased their number of plants by 50 per cent, while the metropolitan areas gained less than 30 per cent. These gains are much smaller than those registered for the Dixie states.

South Shows Signs of Ending Ties

The South is showing faint signs of breaking away from the restraints of the Negro and the one-party system and becoming a powerful influence in national politics, a new book, "Southern Politics," says.

The book is a study by Dr. V. O. Key, Jr., native of Texas and head of Yale's Political Science Department.

Key reports that wealthy conservative whites in the black belt used the white supremacy issue to impose their will on the more radical hill-country residents of the South. He says the black and-white issue defeated the hopes for a two-party system when the Populist revolt was killed by these conservatives. However, the conservatives failed in their Dixiecrat movement against the liberal New Deal, he says.

He believes the degree of conservatism that prevails in the South can be maintained only by "frightening the masses with the Negro question." The Dixiecrats couldn't frighten them, he says, and that is a very hopeful sign.

If the Democratic Party continues to veer leftward and the industrial and financial interests in the South continue to grow, added strains will be placed on the one-party system, the author believes. Yet he sees little hope for a growth of Republicanism in the South because its leadership is ineffective. Lee sees a stronger liberal opposition to the ruling conservatives, with more voting by labor unions and Negroes.

Analyzing the political make-up of the 11 Southern states, Lee says Georgia has a "dual factionalism." The strong personal following of Gov. Talmadge forces the opposition to unite.

Negroes Urged To Help Solve South's Problems

CHARLESTON, S. C., (AP) — There are no problems in the South which the Negro cannot help solve, Bishop Frank Madison Reid, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, said yesterday. He preached to some 5,000 church members attending the annual conference of the South Carolina District here.

"Men do not win by running away from problems," the Bishop said. "I am much in accord with Booker T. Washington's philosophy of 'letting down your buckets where you are.' There are no problems in the South that we, as a race, cannot help to solve.

"Why should we have to leave the South to get better wages? Why not remind the leaders of our communities that the more we are paid here the more we spend here? We would rather have millionaires in the South, who live in the South than to have all the millionaires in the North who live off the fictitious idea of keeping the Negro poor so as to keep him in his place. . . .

"Let's get together and build a philosophy that the South really is a good place to live in. Let's create a sound economic order wherein all people are well paid; a sound educational set-up where all children are properly educated, and a practical Christianity based on the simple principle of the Golden Rule.

"These three abiding virtues will solve all our problems," he concluded.

Role of South Is Cited in Government Expansion

BY EDGAR POE
(The Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

Washington — The growing United States government is today a vast enterprise. It is becoming more and more complicated. Its greatest growth has been the last 17 years during the Democratic administrations.

Indicative of its growth is sharply reflected in metropolitan Washington. About six miles from the White House over the District of Columbia line is Silver Spring, Md., a separate city, with over 100,000 people. Next to Baltimore, it is Maryland's largest city. Perhaps Silver Spring, with its wide streets and modern stores, has a population about as large as the capital cities of Louisiana (Baton Rouge) or Mississippi (Jackson).

Emergency Expansion

The reason for this rising population is the expansion of the federal government, most of Silver Spring's people work for the government. There are a series of reasons of why the government has become so vast and involved. One reason has been the changed and complicated economy, and the part the US now plays in world affairs. Washington is now regarded by many as the "world capital."

As it has been down through history, most of the expansion has been in times of an emergency. In the last 17 years the emergencies have included the terrible depression and World War II.

During the greatest expansion of the federal government—the Roosevelt and Truman administrations—the Democrats with the exception of the short Republican reign, have been in power, and for the most part Southern Democrats have had absolute control of committees in Congress. Legislation in Congress, for the most part, is controlled by the specific committees handling the legislation.

Thus, a partial check of the legislative records shows that since 1933, with exception of the Republican-controlled 80th Congress, the Democrats of the South took the lead in passing some far-reaching legislation. Some of the legislation has been widely hailed as being good. Other acts have been quite controversial.

Points to Legislation

Many Southern Democrats have been attacked, outside the South, as being "too conservative" and "right of the middle of the road." Yet, the record shows that it has been largely Southern congressmen, through their committee leadership, who have passed most of the "progressive" legislation.

An example is the 1933 emergency banking act sponsored by Sen. Fletcher of Florida, who was chairman of the Senate banking and currency committee, and by Rep. Stegall of Alabama, then chairman of the House committee.

The agricultural adjustment act of 1933 was directed by Southerners. It passed the Senate with only three Southerners opposed to it. The home owners loan act of 1933 was sponsored by a Southerner. Southerners also sponsored the federal farm mortgage corporation act, securities exchange act of 1934, the first reciprocal trades agreement act of 1934; the social security act of 1935, the commodity exchange act of 1936, and the Bankhead-Jones farm tenant act of 1937.

The rural electricification act now a controversial act, was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Norris of Nebraska. The far-reaching legislation was handled in committees by chairmen from the South. The fair labor standards act of 1938 was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Hugo Black, now an associate justice of the US supreme court.

Border States Cited

The selective training and service act of 1940 was passed with only four Southern Democratic senators voting against it. Yet the record shows that 14 other Democrats from other than the South voted "nay." Of the 13 Senate Democrats that voted against final passage of the lend-lease act in early 1941, only one was from the South.

In practically all cases where Southern Democratic senators voted against these far-reaching pieces of so-called "progressive legislation," the senators represented the border states of Missouri, Maryland and Kentucky. Without the support of congressmen from the "Deep South" states, much of the "progressive" legislation that became law, would have had little chance of passage.

Southern congressmen have taken the lead in the field of national preparedness and international relations. This is undisputable in Congress.

Now, just a few years after passage of far-reaching "New Deal" legislation, many of the Southern congressmen are called "reactionaries" in the North because they have refused to go along with the present Democratic leadership on President Truman's civil rights program and a few other proposals.

Since the inauguration of Virginia-born Thomas Jefferson in 1801, the first Democratic president, the Democratic party now has been in power a total of 99 years. Throughout the history of the party it has been the South which has most steadfastly given it strength and life.

Only twice in the last 150 years has the Deep South failed to support the Democratic party nominees. The deflections were in 1928 and 1948. One of the big speculative questions in Washington today is: Will the deflections in the South be greater in 1952 or will the Solid South become solidified again? This big question can only be answered in 1952. A lot will depend on the nominees of the two major parties and their platforms.

KENDRIX SAYS SOUTH SOLVING PROBLEMS FAST

HOUSTON, Texas — "The south is solving its problems faster than it may think, and this is being achieved through education," Moss H. Kendrix, NEA representative told the Colored Teachers Association of Texas last Thursday on the occasion of the association's 65th annual convention.

Mr. Kendrix, who has traveled widely in the south during the past several months, pointed to a number of school developments in the region, which he considered "indicative of a new-look trend in education for Negroes." He made reference to a new $2,500,000 high school to be dedicated in Macon, Georgia this Sunday.

"In Shreveport," said the speaker, "I saw one of the most beautiful and most functional school building raising its head into the air. Add the $1,500,000-cost of the Shreveport development to Macon's $2,500,000 and Houston's current high school of $2,000,000 and you are getting into big school financing. And such developments as these are dotting the south.

"To me, these projects and increased spending by southern states in their institutions for the higher training for Negroes means something more than new and better schools. It means, first, that the south is seriously considering its obligations to all its boys and girls.

"It means further that many of the other pressing problems of this region should better themselves in the not too distant future. I say that good education for all American children is the most direct route to better understanding among the people of our nation, for understanding can best be achieved among intellectual equals," opined the speaker.

Mr. Kendrix explained to the Texas teachers the provisions of a federal aid to education bill, which has passed by the Senate of the United States and awaits action by the House of Representatives. According to the NEA representative, S 246, the $300,000,000-federal aid measure, would tremendously aid the states to equalize educational opportunity within their bounds and nationally.

Before coming to Houston, Mr. Kendrix had spoken to teacher-associations in Tennessee and Louisiana. He is scheduled to address the North Carolina Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers at Asheville.

Liberal Dixie Is A-Borning, Says Senator

GREENSBORO, N. C., Oct 13 —(AP)—A new liberal South is a-borning, says Senator Kefauver (D-Tenn), the man who cracked the Crump organization in Tennessee.

"Dixie is sending more and more liberal senators and representatives to Congress," said Kefauver. "State legislatures are taking wholesome steps in civil liberty fields to protect the rights of their minorities. It's a trend—a definite trend."

But it's no crusade, cautioned the senator in an interview. It's no spectacular political bombshell, and it has no single leader.

"Who's responsible? Why, I think it's the leadership in the churches, increased organization of labor in the South and certainly better methods of farming," said Kefauver.

"There was a time in the South when any candidate for political office felt he had to be ultra-reactionary and damn labor and the Negro before he got started. I think that spirit has been greatly changed if not entirely broken."

EDITOR SAYS NORTH IS MISJUDGING SOUTH

If the anti-Communist Peekskill riots had taken place in the South, Northern newspapers would have treated them as race riots expected in the South, Hodding Carter, 1946 Pulitzer Prize editor of The Greenville (Miss.) Delta Democrat-Times, said here yesterday.

Speaking at a luncheon of the Lotus Club, 5 East Sixty-sixth Street, Mr. Carter said that differences between the two sections stem from the fact that they judge each other by their least common denominators. He criticized news services for "playing up crime and racketeering in New York.

Mr. Carter, who is on a nationwide lecture tour, said that in the same way Northern papers think of his area as a land of "lynchings, Bilbo and barefotted people." He also was critical of Northern journalism for playing up "the odious man who tried to bribe a Mississippi school with $50,000,000 to teach white supremacy," while giving less publicity to the refusal of the school's trustees to accept the offer.

The South is no longer "the stereotyped region you used to hear of," Mr. Carter said. He declared that economic changes, especially the growth of "little industries we swiped from New England," have "changed our face and our spirit."

Mr. Carter acknowledged that "bigotry occasionally still crops up in the South, but it is the exception rather than the rule." Declaring that the number of Negro voters has greatly increased in the last generation, and that lynchings have dropped from sixty to one or two "still hideous" cases a year, he asked that these changes be made more widely known.

Trends In Dixieland

By JOHN R. HENRY
International News Serxice
Staff Correspondent

Promoters of new industry in the South find there is a "chain reaction" in establishment of basic manufacturing plants.

They have a tendency to reproduce additional industries. The situation at Jackson, Miss., serves to illustrate.

Reports from the Mississippi Capital indicate that six new industries have pyramided with a glass bottle plant as the base.

A Jackson Chamber of Commerce official told how the city attracted a corrugated box factory to supply crates for the bottle maker.

With glass bottles readily available, four more manufacturers, who need the bottles, move into the city. These included a patent medicine and cosmetic plant, an insecticide manufacturer, a new soft drink bottler and a maker of a bleaching solution.

By-products of glass bottle manufacturing brought the sixth industry—a producer of reflector highway signs.

WIDESPREAD EFFECTS—Location of a new industry in a town means much more than just another payroll. The effects are so widespread that one new plant actually breathes new life into an entire town. Little Jackson, Ala., near Mobile, proves the point.

Back in 1938, the Vanity Fair Mills moved to Jackson, and began production of ladies' underwear. Just how this one industry, with its 500 employes, re-vitalized the town, is illustrated by a statistical story submitted by Jefferson Davis Henry, of the Alabama Chamber of Commerce.

Postal receipts at Jackson in 1938 totaled $7,500. the 1949 figure was $24,560.

Jackson had 250 telephones in 1938, and now there are 850 in the town and more in sight as soon as a new dial system is installed.

Consumption of electricity before the mill came amounted to only a million kilowatt hours in contrast to the five-and-a-half million KWH, today.

Water revenue leaped from $6,198 to $16,837 in the 11-year period. And forced installation of a new water system which will swell receipts still higher.

Assessed value of real estate at Jackson was a mere $398,977 at Jackson in 1938. Today real estate is evaluated at $1,002,000.

And bank deposits? They climbed from $576,000 to $3,896,000.

The average hourly pay for the industrial workers is $1.05 an hour. All but three or four of the mill's personnel are native Alabamans, who always were willing to work but had little more than time on their hands before the underwear plant came to town.

NEW ENGLAND WORRIES—Recent dispatches from "Down East" indicate that Massachusetts State officials and other New Englanders are considerably disturbed by Southern industrial expansion.

A New England delegation is asking the U. S. Department of Commerce and Labor to tell them how to win friends and hold industries.

The Easterners could get the answer, however, from such Dixie leaders as the president of the Central of Georgia Railroad, Marion J. Wise.

Wise discounts the Down East idea that industry is moving southward because of cheap labor. In a little-publicized talk before Southern industrial editors at Athens, Ga., Wise declared:

TOP REASONS—The Central of Georgia executive listed the three main reasons for Dixie's industrial growth. They are:

Decentralization of industry to put plants closer to the markets. (Consumer demand for manufactured goods has grown steadily in the South with its increasing purchasing power.

Southern income increased by 187 percent from 1940 to 1947 while, in the same time, the national income gained but 150 percent.)

Availability of raw materials (these would include agricultural products, timber, soil and water.)

GOVERNORS WATCHED—Eyes of the Democratic Party's States' Rights faction will be glued on the Southern Governor's meeting at Biloxi, Miss., Nov. 20.

Information from Frank Mayerhoff, chief publicity man for the States' Righters, indicates that former Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, will have more than a mere word to say in behalf of the States' Rights doctrine as opposed to the present Democratic Party platform.

Byrnes, meanwhile, is reported to be only standing by until the time is ripe to enter South Carolina's 1950 gubernatorial race.

WHISKEY TEST—Liquor is the main topic of discussion today at Chatttanooga. The question is whether the Tennessee city will be "wet" or "dry" henceforth, and the answer will be supplied Tuesday night (Nov. 8) after ballots in the prohibition referendum are counted.

If distilled spirits are banned, Chattanooga will become the South's first major city to go "on the wagon" since liquor was legalized.

SEGREGATION—The Pennsylvania Railroad went on record last week to abolish all segregation of races on trains moving southward out of New York, past Washington. There was some question whether the anti-segregation policy would effect passengers on the Seaboard and Southern Railroads which pickup southbound coaches at Washington. Traffic agents in Atlanta say there has been no change —and, fortunately, no reaction from the Pennsy policy.

Dixie Press 'Must Tell the South's Story'

MINERAL WELLS, Texas—(AP) The nation must know the story of the South if it is to attain its sanity in the debate of civil rights, U. S. Sen. Johnson, Democrat, said yesterday.

That story can be told only by the Southern Press, he told the forty-seventh convention of the Southern Newspaper Publishers' Association.

"If the voice of the South is to be heard and heeded, it must be a tolerant voice," Johnson told 500 delegates from 14 Dixie States. "The shrill cries of hate and prejudice serve no useful purpose."

Henry A. Byroade, the State Department's German and Austrian policy chief, predicted in an address that Berlin would be developed as "an advance outpost of democracy in Communist-run Eastern Europe."

B. M. McKelway, editor of the Washington Star and President of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, said "a free press should be inherently antagonistic to the idea of expanding government and the multitude of new controls that accompany such an expansion."

Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, Executive Vice President of the Houston Post and President of the SNPA, called the birth of the Southern newsprint industry "the most concrete aim—in the year or in the decade—of Southern journalism."

In another speech Sunday night, Mrs. Hobby, former Commander of the Women's Army Corps, said America has the biggest five-cent bargain in the world.

The South's Shame

(From The Kingsport (Tenn.) News)

More than 2,000,000 Southerners served in the armed forces of World War II yet one seventh did not come home to the South after receiving discharges.

More than a million students graduated in June from the high schools and colleges of the South and yet 15 per cent will seek jobs elsewhere.

Why?

It is most fortunate to see all over the South something is being done to change this trend.

The Chambers of Commerce in various Southern cities are doing their best to spruce up the towns and give youth a chance.

Industries are also helping by offering scholarships and using Summer replacements for vacation work.

It is a great economic loss to the Southern cities and states to educate and train men for leadership and then have them migrate to Northern capitals for jobs.

If the South is to progress it must supply the same opportunities for advancement that Northern cities offer.

The rosters of the nation's leading industrial and business men reveal hundreds of successes by men who were born and educated in the South and moved to Northern cities by reason of greater opportunities.

In order to compete successfully with other sections of the country the South's present leaders must do a lot of thinking and make positive plans to insure that the best talent stays at home.

They Can't Be So Bad

Editor Constitution: I guess you would call me a "Yankee," but as I was passing through your city I chanced to stop at a shoe shining parlor on Marietta Street. A smiling Negro man said, "Have a seat, sir." As he began cleaning my shoes I began a conversation with him on the "race" question. He said he was born and educated in Georgia. He spoke a quiet, smooth, flawless English. He was well read on the topics of the day. He said there was some thing

member "Thomas" as the shoeshine [illegible] who in Georgia he did not like, but there was more [illegible] talked like a lawyer and to think of it that he was educated in Georgia, where t[illegible] the conclusion if there aren't supposed to be any decent schools f[illegible] your "shoeshiners" are as well educated as this Negro, then Georgia has a pretty darn good school system somewhere. He changed my whole opinion of Georgia.

When I return to Omaha I will always re-

A. E. BACHMAN.
Omaha, Neb.

Expansion Of Southern Industry

the News

During the war there was a vast expansion of Southern industry. From July, 1940, to June, 1945, the federal government and private sources invested more than $4,400,000,000 in new manufacturing facilities in this region.

Birmingham, Ala.

Here in Alabama that investment amounted to $528,700,000, a sum greater than that spent in any other Southern state with the exceptions of Texas and Louisiana. The major projects were ordnance factories, new mills for the manufacture of basic and semi-finished iron and steel, basic and semi-finished nonferrous metal plants, ship construction and repair facilities, and aircraft facilities.

Many of these facilities have been converted to peacetime use. And the lessons in industrialization learned by Southerners during the war will have a great long-range value in assuring the South's future economic development.

The lessons of war and postwar experience with these war-built industrial plants was the subject of a recent study made by the National Planning Association's Committee of the South.

Fri. 7-22-49

The report says that perhaps the most important benefits derived from the wartime expansion will be those based upon changes in the skills and perspectives of workers and administrators in the area. The experience added to the skills of thousands of former trades people, farmers, and housewives, upon which a permanent, efficient, growing industrial structure may be founded. Plant managements learned to operate on a very large scale, and their suppliers became familiar with the requirements of large-volume producers.

Fri. 7-22-49

The study revealed that the conversion of war plants to peacetime use has been successful only when there have been favorable markets and management has been of a type to take advantage of those markets or to use any cost advantages that already-built facilities might offer. Industries that have expanded have been those for which the region held comparative peacetime advantages.

Successful conversion to other uses has required the same sort of tactics required for the establishment of entirely new manufacturing plants in a community. Although private business must make the ultimate decision to use a manufacturing facility, community action must create the right environment for that decision.

* * *

The South is richer today as a result of this further industrialization. Per capita income in the South rose sharply from 1940 to 1946.

In that period the increase in average income per capita for the nation was 109 per cent. Increases in the 13 Southern states ranged from 112 per cent in Virginia to more than 170 per cent in Alabama, Arkansas and Mississippi.

This represents substantial achievement, but there is a lot remaining to be done. The South is forging ahead, but it is still the poorest section in the nation. We must work for the continued expansion of Southern industry.

Beginning A New Era

To the Editor:

Many people today are disturbed about the unrest and confusion now occurring in Alabama and the rest of the Southern states. As a Southerner who has lived in the South all his life and who dearly loves the section, I have studied this section and its problems from early youth.

News

I believe that the period we are now living in marks the transition stage from the Old South of the "blue blooded aristocracy," of the few masters and many servants, of the few rich and many poor, of the few oppressors and many oppressed, to the New South of humming industry, new hope and economic opportunity for that "poor white trash," as well as the grandson of the Negro slave. World War II in all probability marked the end of an era, an era steeped in tradition, as well as misery for many in the South, an era of which we have the right to be both proud and ashamed. The war also marked the beginning of an era, an enlightened era, of educated men and women, who have vision and capabilities, as well as a strong sense of justice and a desire to see "the other fellow" prosper and be happy.

Wed. 10-26-49

The unrest and confusion is the result of the conflict raging between those who wish to maintain the status quo on the one hand and the forces of progress on the other. This conflict is bitter. The old ruling class of the South see their control slipping away and will resort to any method to try to keep things on an 1864 basis. They resort to appeal to tradition, try to work up hate by the white race against the black, attempt to keep both races in ignorance, and make an attempt to smear and ruin those who dare oppose them.

Birmingham

That group calls itself "the States' Rights Party." As a result, it can be identified and voted down and out at the ballot boxes.

Next year is election year, a vital year in the history of the South. Next year the voters will decide who their leaders will be for the next few years and whether we will have progress or stalemate over those years. If we elect liberal leaders, we will have progress, but only stalemate if we insist on electing leaders whose hearts and souls are lost in the grandeur of pre-Civil War days. For my part, I prefer millions of miners, farmers and factory workers, with pay checks in their hands, food in their stomachs, instead of hookworms, and with songs in their hearts.

I especially urge all persons who don't vote now, to pay up that back poll tax and help the South to continue to make the progress it has no nobly begun.

REUBEN F. McKINLEY

Tuscaloosa, Ala.

JUDY BROWN: North's Treatment Of South Still Of 'Stepsister' Variety

Judy Brown

While the attitude of Northern journals towards the South is still of a kind, elderly, step-sister variety, it is kinder than it was. The article in Life this week suggests we are doing the best we can and should be encouraged! Much space is given to us and many large illustrations.

We are still "The New South," despite the fact that we are the same old South going steadily ahead, slowly at times because we must, but pressing on. Our Northern friends miss the point that the same spirit animates us as in those other days, and loses none of its fire through age, but grows stronger as we carry out those ambitions which we have visioned through the years.

News

The article gives credit for the reclaiming of the soil in South Carolina and the improvement in the growing of fruit and extension of crop diversification. Georgia, too comes in for approval on several lines, such as diversification of crops, the ensuing prosperity which has given a boost to industrial conditions. It is pleasantly mentioned that Atlanta, our famous neighbor, and shall we say rival, is the town where "Gone With The Wind" was written. And there is a picture of Richard Rich, looking rich as the head of his enormously successful department store in that city.

Emphasis seems unnecessarily placed on the fact that Negro people are still segregated, though we are treating them better than we did! It seems our good friends, the Negroes have been climbing painful inch by painful inch towards a better status, though they never seem to us to be suffering much pain, certainly none that we can alleviate. We would say that on the whole the Southern Negro is a happy fellow. We are glad to give him everything for which at the present he shows himself fitted.

Wed.

In touching on Alabama there were a good many outstanding points which were missed but we were glad that the widespread planting of the wonderful kudzu vine was not overlooked with its amazing rejuvenating effect on the soil, its value as food for stock, and the miracle of its growth with no special encouragement from any one; for those who happen to drive through the length and breadth of this state can see what it is doing for Alabama.

Birmingham

And we are proud and grateful for the reference, though brief, to our Tom Martin whose efforts for the Southern Research Institute for diversified industry were commended. Mr. Martin has meant so much to us in so many ways that we feel that nothing Life or any other widely read magazine might say of him would be too much.

Progress In Present Tense—

Pearson Praises Alabama

By DREW PEARSON
(Copyright, 1949, by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

MONTGOMERY, Ala., May 10—A few years ago, if anyone predicted that white and Negro teachers would soon be paid the same salaries in the schools of Alabama, he would have been scoffed at.

A few years ago, also, no one would have believed the prediction that Negro schools would become as up-to-date and modern as white schools. And if anyone had predicted that a Negro would sit among 12 good men and true on a jury which decided the fate of a white man where the death sentence was involved he would have been considered revolutionary.

However, all of these things have happened—in Alabama.

Furthermore, there seems to be a healthy desire in this state, which has one of the heaviest Negro populations of the South, to work quietly and steadily toward improvement of race relations.

Two Negro high schools have just been finished in Montgomery, and this writer, who recently visited them, can testify to the fact that they appear more up-to-date than the older schools for white children. Alabamans admit that the Negro schools were long overdue and that it has only been recently that Negro education has begun to catch up. However, the important things is that it has improved.

Montgomery also boasts a state teachers college for Negroes which has a large number of modern, new, well-equipped buildings, plus an athletic field which some Alabamans ruefully claim is better than theirs.

Montgomery's most beautiful monument to Negro education, however, is St. Jude's School, built by the nickels and pennies scraped together by a Catholic priest, Father Purcell. It probably surpasses anything built by the state.

Another monument to North-South cooperation is being urged by the Blue and Gray Association, which has built part of a football stadium for athletic contests between the North and the South, and is now trying to raise sufficient funds to complete the project.

Eventually a monument to the two great generals of the Civil War—Lee and Grant—will stand outside this shrine to North-South friendship, where already an annual football game is played between two all-star teams from the North and South in Montgomery, the Cradle of the Confederacy.

Taking a cue from the Blue and Gray Association, many Southern high schools invited Northern school elevens to the South last Winter, and the idea is spreading.

"You can't legislate or force goodwill and brotherly love," says Champ Pickens, chief organizer of the Blue and Gray Memorial. "You have to encourage it."

The Blue and Gray has done a lot of encouraging and will do more down here in the heart of the Deep South—if given a little help from those in the North who sometimes criticize without taking the trouble to find out how much progress the South is making on its own.

Standing Up For The Law

The 20 citizens who have assumed responsibility and leadership for the "Committee of 500" yesterday issued an impressive interim report concerning its consideration of the problem of law enforcement, particularly against hooded gangs, in this county.

It makes numerous pertinent and useful comments and recommendations, following many meetings of this group and a number of interviews with public officials.

This report, above all, is a strong declaration in behalf of the supremacy of law and in this behalf makes an emphasis of particular timeliness and power. It recognizes that all lawlessness tends to weaken free government. It stresses respect for law, under all circumstances and conditions, as essential to true liberty.

The report sets forth a principle that should have general assent but which has been challenged by recent acts of hooded lawlessness in this area. It declares:

"All right-thinking citizens know that the fundamental basis of our government is law and order, and that no citizen, or group of citizens, should take it upon themselves to function by ignoring the law and meting punishment under a rule of their own. We call upon all citizens to adhere to and assist in maintaining government by law, and oppose anything that resembles anarchy. Failure by law enforcement officers to apprehend and prosecute violations of the law does not justify action on the part of any group of citizens to do other than proceed lawfully by producing evidence to the proper constituted authorities.

"... The most discouraging fact in connection with the whole situation is that some members of the K. K. K., their friends and sympathizers, continue to justify the taking of the law into their own hands."

This clear, unequivocal pronouncement strikes at the very heart of the problem. Obviously that problem grows out of the belief—no doubt sincerely, however mistakenly, held in many cases—that under certain conditions citizens have a right to act outside the law in coercion and punishment of others. If that profound misconception can be sufficiently eliminated, the problem of lawlessness represented by hooded gang operations can be entirely solved.

* * *

It is a major contribution in support of the supremacy of the law that this committee of highly respected citizens, representing various activities, has made.

It also has dealt with some particular steps and ideas of importance in dealing with specific conditions.

It views "with concern" delay in action to bring about revocation of the charter of the Ku Klux Klan. It calls upon the attorney general and legislative leaders to reconcile any differences in this connection "and proceed promptly on such a course as may be indicated before the Legislature adjourns."

It urges officials and people to cooperate in developing a plan looking toward a more adequate county law enforcement organization. It suggests a broad, objective survey to this end.

It makes a strong appeal for good citizens to respond to fundamental duty through jury service.

It expresses concern over a pending bill to give judges discretion to relieve bondsmen of the obligation to produce defendants out on bail.

It suggests that Sunday, Sept. 11, or some other suitable day, be proclaimed "a day for all to start a new era for law and order."

It declared that "the press is to be commended for its attempt to outlaw organizations that attempt to usurp the power of law." It further expressed "grateful appreciation to the newspapers who have continually given aggressive and strong publicity thus keeping the public informed and aroused to the danger of the situation and the necessity for correction of obvious failures or defects in our law enforcement." It specifically commended Birmingham papers and the press generally for "their assistance in exposing Klan activities and carrying on the fight against the Klan."

Commendation was expressed for the circuit solicitor, the Grand Juries and the state investigators "for their vigorous action which resulted in the Grand Jury returning indictments in the Klan cases." It especially commended Solicitor Perry for his work with the committee and in law enforcement.

* * *

In conclusion, this earnest and significant report called on all law enforcement agencies for vigorous enforcement of the law and "called the attention of all the people" to "the necessity of law enforcement by regularly constituted authorities and to the danger of action by vigilante committees and mobs of any kind."

Members of this committee are Donald Comer, chairman; the Rt. Rev. C. C. J. Carpenter, Dr. John H. Buchanan, Bishop Clare Purcell, Dr. John L. Slaughter, Lawson Gambill, William Mitch, Thomas N. Crawford, William P. Engel, Joe H. Brady, Frazer Banks, Carey E. Haigler, Hugh Brown, Carl A. Weigand, Amos N. Kirby, Bedford Seale, Henry Hagar, John D. Higgins, Frank B. Yeilding, Jr., and Thomas W. Martin.

This report strikes strongly and effectively for law and law enforcement in principle and in practice. It constitutes a substantial public service.

Negro Slum Clearance Plan Backed By City; Fund Voted For Park

THE CITY COMMISSION yesterday pledged full support to the proposed construction of 1,300 slum clearance units by the Public Housing Authority here.

The proposed low-cost units would be built at various points about the city for Negro occupancy only.

Commissioner W. A. Gayle said the project should eliminate certain "blighted areas" in the city.

Also yesterday, the commission voted to appropriate $6,000 to the County Board of Education for improvement of playground facilities at Cloverdale School.

A $2,300 appropriation was made to the Montgomery Carnegie Library for the installation of new lights. The money will be deducted from the $2,600 which the city gives to the library each year.

The name of Caffey Drive, on Mechanicsville Plat, was changed yesterday to Pryor Drive. The change was requested by principal property owner on the street, a Negro.

LET'S SEE NOW

'To Be Decent And Respectable'

The Constitution, Atlanta, Ga.

By DORIS LOCKERMAN

"We want to teach our people. We want to help them to be decent and respectable, and to know how to treat their fellow man on the street. We want to teach them how to dress with modesty and how to keep their families. And about diet and family relationship and . . ." Tues. 2-1-49 46b

Ruby Blackburn paused, and smiled slowly.

"And we want to teach them love instead of hate."

Ruby Blackburn has been a friend for some time, as she is of many people in this community and I knew she had come to ask for help for a project that is dearer to her even than her son who wears an officer's uniform in the Navy.

She is one of the handful of Negro men and women who spark the Atlanta Negro Cultural League Training Center . . . that pair of ramshackled old buildings on Auburn Street, still not paid for, that fade out in her vision to become a real institution of training for her people.

They have no high-flown ideas of taking over big jobs for which they are not fitted.

Their curriculum is simple, within reach, practical.

"The Training Center is an institution operated by the citizens of the City of Atlanta. Its purpose is to improve all classes of labor, teaching them to perform a much better job. . . . In these classes one will be taught the correct way to obtain employment as wel' as how to do one's job.

"There will be modern conveniences in this center . . . cafeteria, rest room and assembly room, available to all organizations. The Center urges all out-of-town shoppers to enjoy these conveniences, which will be as follows: Education, culture classes, supply employment, supply maid, how to obtain jobs, public conduct, cooks, porters, janitors, butlers, health clinic, family relations, public affairs, nursery, baby sitters."

That is all there is to it. It has no vaunted aims to revolutionize the world. It is not "uppity." It is as simple and honest as hard work has always been and that is the kind of dignity it has assumed.

Now it is not easy to get money to support such a training center. It is too humble to attract the endowment and foundation funds, and appealing as it does mainly to adult education, it cannot share in public education appropriations.

With an initial debt of $24,000 for the old buildings and the property, the directors now owe only $3,700. Every dollar has been squeezed from meager budgets, bazaars, sales of old clothing, special collections, tickets for chances on items donated to them by friends. Tues. 2-1-49

It is a hard fight, and it needs the support of the others who believe that democracy begins at home.

You see, here are some people who feel keenly the truth of the premise of J. W. Holley, the Negro professor of Albany, who recently titled a book on his race so succintly:

"You Can't Build a Chimney from the Top."

Mrs. Mae Reese Johnson

FORMER ATLANTAN HONORED—Mrs. Mae Reese Johnson, well-known civic leader and organizer of Scattergood Youth Center in Pasadena, California, and a former Atlantan, was signally honored at the dedicatory services held for the new $25,000 club house, which is located at 855 North Oaks Avenue.

Atlanta, Ga.

The Scattergood Association was founded 20 years ago by Mrs. Johnson with 12 children. It now boasts a membership of 150. During the years, 1200 children have participated in the program. The founder was credited by the police department for having materially decreased delinquency in that city.

Sat. 7-2-49

Another honor that came to Mrs. Johnson was that she was one of three women, two of which were white, to be honored by the Interracial Club for social and civic contributions. The three were given life memberships in the organizations at elaborate ceremonies that were held on June 8 at the YWCA.

Sat. 7-2-49

The citation honoring Mrs. Johnson said: "Mae Reese Johnson is a woman who for a quarter of a century has been building the spirit of friendliness in our city. She spent a lifetime in interpreting the Negro race to the Caucasians, and in turn interpreting the Caucasians to the Negroes, that there might be better understanding and friendliness between them. Nor does her job of Christian Friendliness stop there; for, as a friend of wealthy groups, she has interpreted their motives and actions to those in need; and, in turn she has interpreted the requirements of the needy to the wealthy.

Mrs. Johnson, is the sister of Mrs. Peyton Allen, of Atlanta, wife of the late Atty. Allen. She will visit her sister in August enroute to the Diamond Jubilee of the W. C. T. U., as a delegate, to be held in Philadelphia.

A FINE HARLEM PROJECT

I should like to call attention to and commend the 110th Street Community Center, which has been observing the first anniversary of its inspiring work: to teach by example that Negro and white, Spanish, Italian and English speaking peoples, Protestants, Catholics and Jewish people can live together in harmony. This center occupies a substantial eight-story building overlooking the lake and hills of Central Park to the south and, to the north, Harlem, which we need not describe to our readers. It got off to an excellent start in receiving this building as a gift from the YM-YWHA and the Jewish Association for Neighborhood Centers; the plant was thoroughly renovated at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars.

The basic objective is "to develop democratic interracial and intercultural relations through social engineering techniques," but this description should not be permitted to frighten anyone. The work done is highly practical, rather than theoretical. The basic unit for membership is the family, and a fee of one dollar a month per family is charged. The atmosphere is easy and informal. Small-group activity is emphasized, as a way of offering persons of different cultural and racial background an opportunity to come to know one another, face to face.

This center's program not only involves doing a needed, and unique, job in its community. It also looks ahead to research in the social problems raised where people of so many races, colors and religions live together, and to disseminate to other neighborhoods and cities the profitable lessons learned. It seems to us to be a program richly deserving the financial support of endowed foundations, as well as individuals interested in promoting amity and understanding. A budget of $175,000 is now being raised for the 1949 work. Visitors who would like to see what is being done are welcomed to the center, which is at 31 West 110th Street, New York 26. George W. Culberson is executive director and Stephen P. Duggan, Jr., is president.

CENTER TO BE DEDICATED

Model Negro Community Is Near Columbia, Miss.

COLUMBIA, Miss., Feb. 24.—(UP)—A "model" rural center for negroes, first of its kind in the nation, will be formally dedicated Monday at negro community of Lampton near here.

The center, to serve as a model for others to be built later, was constructed by the women's division of the Board of Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Church.

It includes housing and offices for director and assistant, a medical care clinic, a library, a kitchen, club rooms, and an auditorium seating 1306. The auditorium also has a standard basketball floor.

Mississippi Briefs

Rural Center for Negroes Opens at Lampton Monday

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

Hattiesburg, Miss., Feb. 24—A rural center for Negroes—the first of its kind in the United States—will be dedicated Monday at Lampton, Miss., Negro community four miles south of Columbia on Highway 13.

Built by the women's division of the board of missions and church extension of the Methodist church, the center is to be a model for others that will be constructed later. It will serve Negroes of the Columbia area.

A large building has been erected for the center, housing offices for the director, his assistant, a clinic for medical care, a library, a kitchen, clubrooms for boys and girls and a standard basketball gymnasium.

Plans are under way for home visitation for the social workers, a health nurse, a traveling library, kindergarten and nursery work and an adult education program with particular reference to gardening and canning.

Mrs. Paul Arrington of Jackson was one of the originators of the idea for a center for Negroes several years ago when she was president of the Mississippi Methodist Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service. Later when plans were being made to establish such a center somewhere in the United States, she asked that it be located in Mississippi.

Lampton was selected as the site by a group from the New York office of the Methodist church, Mrs. Arrington and other women of the conference.

Monday's dedication of the Mississippi Rural Center is scheduled at 2 p. m. with open house from 11 a. m. to 5 p. m.

No Race Prejudice at Neighborhood House

Children descended from the people of many nations are being taught physical grace by Mrs. Marjorie Moore of Neighborhood House.

Four years ago, the vivacious Mrs. Moore, who is little more than 5 feet tall, was graduated as a physical education major from the University of Washington. She then joined the staff of Neighborhood House, a Community Chest agency.

The boys are most interested in tumbling, the girls in dancing, Mrs. Moore said. The girls' interest in ballet runs hard on the heels of ballroom dancing, she said.

Classes include Filipinos, Caucasians, Negroes, Japanese and Chinese children.

"Racial prejudice gets little chance to develop," Mrs. Moore said. "The close association of the children blights it before it has a chance to grow."

Urge Changes In Jury And Law Systems

The Ku Klux Klan was solidly rapped and numerous changes in law enforcement procedures were recommended in a report made public today by the committee of 500.

The Jefferson County citizens' group was formed in June after a series of acts of violence by hooded and masked night riders. This is the first report by the group. But it was made clear that there will be others.

The 14-page report deals with the anti-mask bill, revocation of the Ku Klux Klan charter, the need for an expanded, trained sheriff's force, weaknesses of the present jury system and bail bonds.

In calling for an emphasis on "due process of law," the committee points out that terroristic acts of mobs here have created disorder and confusion "and the overthrow of legal process."

ALL PERSONS CONNECTED with passage of the Mize anti-mask bill, which tore the hoods off the Klan, were highly commended. But the committee urged further fast action against the white robed order.

Solicitor Emmett Perry, the Grand Juries and four state investigators who worked on the mob violence cases here were singled out for praise. Mr. Perry was given an "especial commendation" for his work with the committee and for "his vigorous efforts in law enforcement."

The group viewed "with concern" delay in an attempt to revoke the Klan's charter, whether by judicial procedure or by legislative action. It urged prompt action either way before the Legislature adjourns.

"The most discouraging fact in connection with the whole situation," the report states, "is that some members of the K. K. K., their friends and sympathizers, continue to justify the taking of the law into their own hands.

"If K. K. K. members are not guilty of lawless acts, they should have long ago been the first to take off the hoods and to help prevent lawless mobs going abroad in similar regalia to perpetrate cowardly acts of personal spite and vengeance."

The committee favored additional patrol cars for the sheriff's office, to be handled by uniformed men. And it called for the county commission and sheriff to work out a plan "which will make men. And it called for the County commission and sheriff to a start toward a more adequate law enforcement organization."

WHILE IT AGREED the sheriff should have more men, it stipulated that all law enforcement officers "should be carefully scrutinized to ascertain whether or not they hold membership in or have any allegiance to any unlawful or subversive groups." The Ku Klux Klan has been declared a subversive organization.

An impartial survey of county law enforcement agencies was recommended by the committee. It would determine means of getting greater efficiency and increased services.

One phase of the survey would be the furnishing of trained criminal investigators for the solicitor's office.

It also was recommended that the solicitor be given a chance to look over the records of all personnel "who are to engage in crime detection and law enforcement."

The committee pointed out its information showed the sheriff's office had not kept "anything like complete files of arrests and dispositions of cases." It urged conditions be "promptly and fully remedied."

* * *

BUT IT RESERVED the greatest length of its report for the jury system. It said, "It is perfectly obvious that there is a deplorable laxness in jury service in Jefferson County of men who are competent to serve."

It followed up that statement with facts and figures to show that during the last "court year" the sheriff's office had been unable to locate 20 per cent of the names given him to serve for jury duty. Of the balance served, some 5 per cent were not qualified for jury duty.

And, of all persons subpoenaed, 35 per cent were excused from jury duty. The winding up, the report said, was that only 40 per cent of prospective jurors drawn from the jury box finally did jury service.

The committee asked employers to encourage men to serve on juries, as one solution to the problem. And it suggested the sheriff's office investigate use of registered mail to jurors.

THE REPORT commended the sheriff for discontinuing the practice of making courtesy appointments as deputy sheriff, and the announcement that all existing appointments had been canceled.

One special deputy was found guarding a Ku Klux Klan meeting at Adamsville. The man was subsequently placed under indictment on several charges by the Grand Jury.

The committee viewed "with concern" the bill pending in the Legislature which would give judges discretion to relieve bondsmen of "their obligation to produce the defendant who is out on bail-bond."

It was suggested by the committee that city and county schools start a program to emphasize law and order. Mayors and county commissioners were asked to name Sept. 11, or some other Sunday, as a day "for all to start a new era for law and order."

* * *

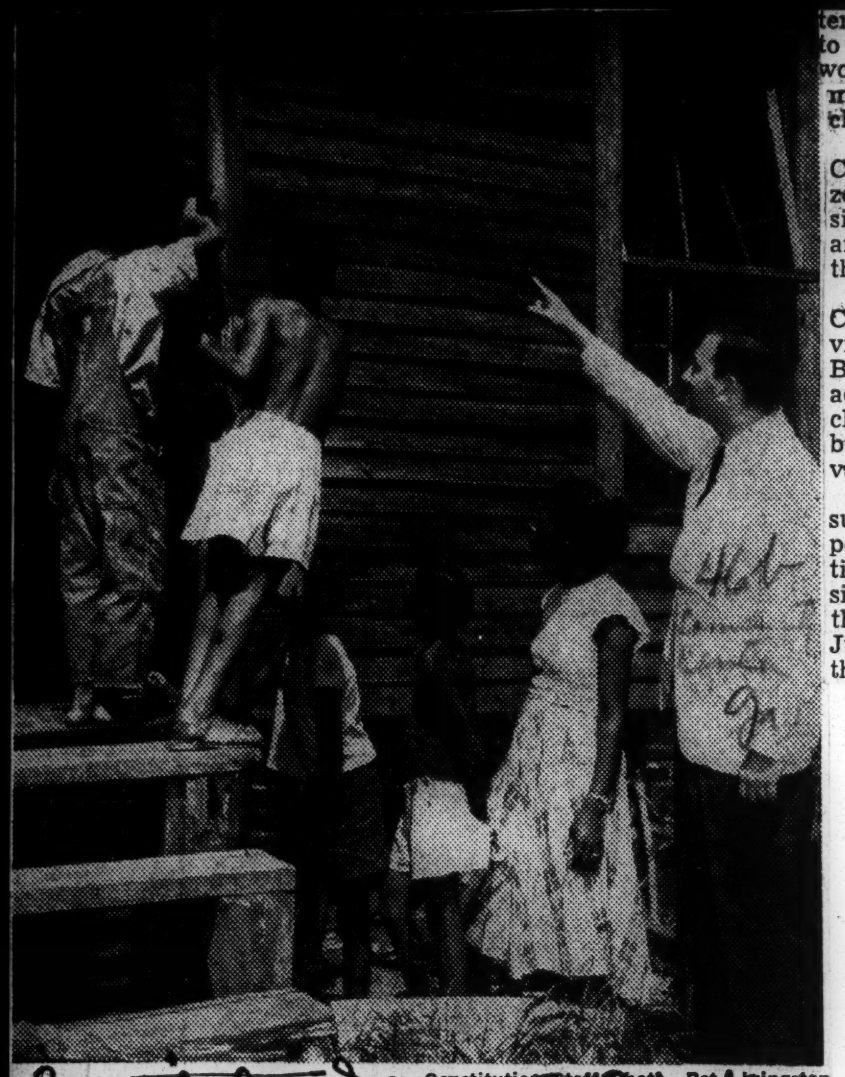
FINALLY THE Committee of 500 praised Birmingham's newspapers. It disagreed with the thought that some unfair publicity has been attached to Jefferson County because of the wide publicity about the recent lawlessness.

The report said "there has been much more favorable publicity to Alabama in this whole matter, than unfavorable, because of the Mize bill, now become law, and other public expressions to the end of preserving law and order."

The Birmingham newspapers and the press generally are commended for their assistance in exposing Klan activities and carrying on the fight against the Klan."

At the original meeting of the Committee of 500, a committee of five was selected to guide the group. The number later was enlarged to 20 citizens who have met frequently to discuss remedies for the mob action here.

These 20 men submitted the report for the Committee of 500 as a whole. They are Donald Comer, chairman; the Right Rev. C. C. J. Carpenter, Dr. John H. Buchanan, Bishop Clare Purcell, Dr. John L. Slaughter, Lawson Gambill, William Mitch, Thomas N. Crawford, William P. Engel, Joe H. Brady, Frazer Banks, Carey E. Haigler, Hugh Brown, Carl A. Wiegand, Amos N. Kirby, Bedford Seale, Henry Hagar, John D. Higgins, Frank B. Yeilding, Jr., and Thomas W. Martin.



Constitution Staff Photo—Pat Livingston

NEGRO COMMUNITY CENTER PLANNED—De Jongh Franklin, Chairman of the Summerhill Project Committee of the Atlanta Junior Chamber of Commerce, points to the old house at 630 Fraser St., S. E., which will be transformed into a community center for Negroes.

JAYCEE-LAUNCHED PROJECT

House Remodeled Into Negroes' Center

A ramshackle old house on a weedy lot in the Summerhill section is scheduled for a face lifting.

The house, located at 630 Fraser St., S. E., will be transformed into a modern community center—a recreation hub for Negroes all ages in an area otherwise devoid of amusement facilities.

Remodeling of the house will begin tomorrow. When completed early in September, the center will include a large game room, two smaller game rooms, a kitchen, small office and bathing facilities.

The project, designed to combat juvenile delinquency and provide wholesome entertainment, will be known as the Jaycee Summerhill Community Center because it is being launched by the Atlanta Junior Chamber of Commerce.

De Jongh Franklin, Chairman of the Summerhill Project Committee of Atlanta Jaycees, explained the Junior Chamber already has donated $500 toward the Center. An anonymous donor contributed $500, and the Negroes of the neighborhood raised $546 under the leadership of Mrs. J. B. Harris.

Franklin said the Jaycees have pledged $125 a month for at least six months for leadership training. He explained funds allocated to the project were derived from Jaycee gum ball machines, scattered throughout the city. In order to expand their youth welfare work, Atlanta Jaycees are seeking more locations for gum ball machines, he said.

Interest and aid of the Junior Chamber was enlisted by the Citizens Crime Prevention Commission, a Community Chest agency, and Julian Whatley, President of the Commission.

Operation of the Community Center will be under the supervision of Warren Cochran, of the Butler Street YMCA. The character building program will include not only games of all kinds but classes in cooking, sewing and various arts and crafts.

Furnishing and equipment — such as stoves, a refrigerator, ping pong table and other game facilities—are needed. Any person desiring to contribute equipment to the Center should contact the Junior Chamber of Commerce or the Butler Street YMCA.

46b 1949

WELFARE CENTER SET UP IN HARLEM

New York Times

Building to Be Begun This Fall Will Cost $1,718,000— Mayor Outlines Plans

Wed. 10-12-49

Mayor O'Dwyer, Welfare Commissioner Raymond M. Hilliard and other city officials spoke yesterday at ceremonies marking the establishment of the new Harlem Welfare Center.

The center will be the first building erected by the city for its Department of Welfare. will occupy the entire block from 131st Street to 132d Street and from Park Avenue to the East River. A five-story brick and limestone building will contain offices for executives, case investigation, an interviewing division and other functions of the department. Construction is expected to begin this fall and to be completed within a year at a total cost of $1,718,000.

Another center, to be established at 309 East 108th Street, will include in its facilities a dental clinic, a homemaking center and a day center for the aging, it was announced.

The Mayor reviewed housing and other construction in the Harlem area in the last three and a half years, and outlined a program of construction for the section in the next four years that will bring the total cost to more than $200,000,000.

"No one knows better than we do how this neighborhood has been neglected for a long time," he said. "If we spend more here than in other neighborhoods it is because Harlem needs more spending. We have to give these people a chance to have their children grow up strong and healthy."

The Mayor opened his address with a tribute to Mr. Hilliard, noting humorously that the Welfare Department head is a Republican. He paused once when a plane passing overhead drowned out his voice, then remarked: "You never can tell what these Republicans are up to."

He listed the housing developments already completed and those under construction in the area, summing up with a total of 11,666 apartments, which, together with a slum clearance project, will cost $143,245,000. The hospital program he outlined for the Harlem section added up to $42,000,000. Public school construction since 1946 together with new construction came to $16,400,000. He listed expenditures for recreational facilities, playgrounds and health centers at a total of more than $12,000,000.

Commissioner Hilliard presided at the ceremony. Other speakers included Hugo Rogers, Manhattan Borough President, Frederick H. Zurmuhlen, Department of Public Works Commissioner, and Mrs. Ruth Whitehead Whaley of the Department of Welfare.

Heads Center

Appointed director of the Franklin Avenue Center at the State University of New York was John T. Graves of New York, a graduate of Lincoln University, Pa., who has served with the State Department of Education for several years.

Two Community Welfare Centers Serve The City

Staff Correspondence

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—The Bethlehem Center and the Oaklawn Community Center are two names synonymous with public service with a Christian approach in Charlotte. Located in different sections of the city and far apart so far as the geography of Charlotte goes, they are very close in aims, ideas, hopes, and aspirations of things to be accomplished.

Both are sponsored by church groups, Bethlehem by the Women's Division of Christian, Methodist; and Oaklawn by the Myers Park Presbyterian Church. The programs of each begin with the kindergarten child and extend through the adult group and stress Christian ideals and democratic mode of living as the ultimate of all clear thinking people.

BETHLEHEM CENTER

The Bethelehem Center began in 1940 and located in a thickly section of Charlotte known as Brooklyn or second ward. Its staff has been from its beginning interracial. An old remodeled hotel with excavated space for workshops in the basement serves as the home of the center. Permission was granted by the local lodge of Elks to use the vacant lot next door for a playground and the local Civitan Club sponsored boys work and are at present underwriting the salary of the boys worker.

Aside from teen-age groups and adult clubs the most emphasized activity is the kindergarten which is enthusiastically received by the community. There is also a wood work shop and shoe repair shop sponsored by the Civitans. However, their most outstanding service has been the procurment of work for older boys. The center has space for living quarters for its head resident worker.

Miss Iva McCarter is head resident of Bethlehem Center, Mrs. Katherine N. Bowser and Miss Willie H. Craine are assistants and James Toately is boys worker.

OAKLAWN CENTER

The Oaklawn Center will celebrate its second birthday in August of this year and already finds need of five full-time and three part-time workers headed by a director. It is housed in a building erected at a cost of $15,000 and located in a section in which one-fifth of the Negroes reside.

Just how well the program is being received is shown by the fact that its Sunday school, which is held in the afternoon, has an average attendance of 167 and vesper service which follows immediately is regularly attended by an average of 75. Daily Vacation Bible School, which is sponsored each Summer had a record enrollment of 364 and became the largest in the Presbyterian in the Synod of North Carolina.

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Special emphasis is placed upon adult activities and a course in vocational training has been included. To date a total of 330 women and 250 teen-age girls have been enrolled in the ten classes which have completed the course. Home nursing is also taught by the Red Cross.

CENTER STAFF

The staff of the Oaklawn Center includes, C. D. Ripley, director; T. J. Harshaw, recreation director; Miss Ruby Melton, kindergarten teacher; Mrs. J. E. Carter, assistant; Mrs. E. L. Henderson, women's vocation teacher; Miss Majorie Hymes, girl's worker; and the Rev. Leon R. Anderson, religious education.

No more fitting tribute could be paid the work of these two organizations that the words of praise issued by F. Marion Redd, judge of the juvenile court and Frank N. Littlejohn, chief of police of Charlotte, while telling of the great reduction of juvenile delinquency in the areas serviced by the centers.

Little-Heralded Mother, Wife Of 54 Years, Has Educated 12

LINDEN, Tenn. — One of the nation's most outstanding Mother's Day stories belongs to little-heralded Mrs. Florence Thomas who, with her husband, George, will celebrate 54 years of marital bliss (and hard work) later this year.

With an extreme helping of pluck and the use of unusual ingenuity, Mrs. Thomas successfully raised and educated 12 children, including one who was born blind, Ressley Thomas.

All of them, including the latter, have received college educations and are making good in responsible jobs.

Although Mr. Thomas has been a carpenter and contractor for nearly 50 years, being rated as one of the best brick, concrete, and stone men in the country, the family has been handicapped by the lack of adequate educational facilities in this little town.

Supplies Spirit

Yet, with Mrs. Thomas supplying the necessary spirit and much of the advice, all the problems have been solved. At one time several of the children took an apartment in Nashville so that they could attend Pearl High School there.

The most touching story of the family involves Ressley who overcame his handicap to graduate with honors from a school for the blind. He has mastered Braille, which he "reads" and types with equal fluency, travels alone and earns a living selling magazines.

Other children include Joe, a teacher at Clarksville; George Jr., a trade school supervisor in Nashville; Mrs. Lillie Thomas Boyd, a graduate of Tennessee A. & I. college, who majored in Home Economics then married a Methodist preacher; Juanita, a teacher at Murray, Ky.; Frank, an officer in the medical corps during the war who also is a trade school supervisor; Florence Jr., who teaches in an Arkansas high school; and Fred, a recent graduate of Howard's dental school.

The Thomases own a well-furnished, though not lavish, home here and command the respect of all citizens. Until an illness, Mr. Thomas was active in trades as well as in civic work. Now, Mrs. Thomas not only runs the household, she sees that her husband gets the best possible out of life.

Mrs. Thomas' story of hard work, sacrifice, pluck, and ingenuity in the raising and educating of 10 children is an inspiration which could well give strength to many a mother who finds the going rough. She and her brood are living proof that it can be done."

Queens Woman Chosen Foster Mother of Year

Mrs. Albert Mikovich, fifty-two, of 90-48 179th Place, Jamaica, Queens, who has mothered 101 youngsters—one of them her own—was chosen Foster Mother of the Year yesterday at a luncheon sponsored by the Mayor's Committee on Child Care at Cavanagh's Restaurant, 258 West Twenty-third Street.

As a foster mother for the Jewish Child Care Association of New York for the last ten years, she received a citation from Welfare Commissioner Raymond M. Hilliard "for the unqualified giving of herself, her home and her love to children temporarily without homes and families."

She and her husband, a chef at the Hotel Statler, have cared for a hundred youngsters from ten days to sixteen years old. At the moment they have five boys between the ages of two months and ten years. Eighteen other foster mothers, each of whom had done an exceptional job for a child care agency, received honorable mention citations at the luncheon.

CHILDLESS COUPLE TAKE IN 3 NEEDY

Negro Family in Bronx Opens Home to Young Girl and Her Two Brothers

By GEORGE STREATOR

The willingness of a Negro family in the Bronx to accept into their home a sister and her two brothers as children of their own was hailed by the Riverdale Children's Association yesterday as a good omen for the coming year.

The sister is 8 years old, and her two brothers 7 and 3 respectively. They were welcomed as new members of the family of their new mother, who is not employed and determined to make a good home for her new mafily, she said. The new father is regularly employed by a Manhattan business concern. The couple has no children of its own.

The three children were born in Harlem. Their parents faced a series of vicissitudes. The grandparent who cared for them for a brief time, became ill A transfer to another home was necessary. Hospitalization became necessary, too, a social worker said. In the end, the three children were brought together under one roof. Records of social work organizations reveal that it is rare today when a family can be found sufficiently well-housed to take care of three children—or more.

The new parents were migrants to New York. The mother is an only child, and the father one of seven. Both have a willingness to make the present arrangement for the children permanent. The children are happy too. They said so. Their activities pointed to happiness. Their toys were being enjoyed, their warm clothes appreciated and the affection of the parents was equally affectionately returned.

Save for Summer Trips

The sister has her bank account. The older boys also saves. Unless their monies are carefully managed, there will be no summer trip outside the city. The sister said that much, and the brother agreed.

The children have "grown" in their ambitions in their new surroundings, the social worker said. The sister will be a school teacher. The older boy will go west to be a cowboy. The younger boy is content with life as he finds it and will go right on playing with his toys. The two older children are enrolled in a near-by public school.

Mrs. Audre Delany, executive director of the Riverdale Association, pointed out that the three children are a part of 400 who are the agency's responsibility. The problem has been made more acute by the ages of the children now in need of placement. Many of these have spent "valuable" years in makeshift homes, hospitals and city temporary shelters, she said.

47% Are in Teen-Age Group

Children needing placement are "aging." Where formerly most of them were in the pre-adolescent age group, today over 47 per cent are "'teen-agers," with the usual problems of adolescence added to their already disturbed condition brought about by broken homes "and often tragic family situations." They require "more skilled care, more psychiatric help and more specialized services such as vocational and educational guidance than any other group," Mrs. Delany said.

The Riverdale Children's Association reported "a large annual deficit of more than $112,000" which must be sought from voluntary sources by June 1. Mrs. Robert DeVecchi is president of the board, which is interracial, intercultural and interfaith in composition. The association is now in its 113th year of continuous operation. Its beginnings were in 1834 in downtown New York City on Cherry Street when two Quaker women found two Negro orphans "sitting on a doorstep of a dilapidated building."

DOBBS SIGNALS FOR LIGHTS—John Wesley Dobbs flings his arm gingerly as a signal to turn on almost three and one-half miles of Whiteway lights at dedication exercises Thursday night. The dedication program, sponsored by the Negro Voters League, was held on the steps of the Auburn Branch Library.

Also shown on the picture are, left to right: Front; Dobbs, co-chairman of the League; Attorney A. T. Walden, co-chairman of the League; T. Wayne Blanchard, councilman-elect; second row; J. H. Calhoun, executive secretary of the league; Councilman John A. White, Mayor William B. Hartsfield; back row; Councilman Lee Field, and Jimmy Vickers. (Adair Photo)

Constitution Staff Photo—Earl Dixon

"LET'S SEE THOSE LIGHTS!"—This signal, given by John Wesley Dobbs with upthrust arm, Co-Chairman of the Atlanta Negro Voters' League, switched on three and one-tenth miles of new whiteway lights last night. Others appearing on the dedication program and shown in the picture are, left to right: Front: Dobbs, A. T. Walden, League Co-Chairman; T. Wayne Blanchard, Councilman-elect; second row; J. H. Calhoun, League Secretary; Councilman John A. White, Mayor William B. Hartsfield; back row: Councilman Lee Field and Jimmy Vickers.

Whiteway Add Hailed By Negroes

Jubilation and joyous shouting last night greeted the blazing forth of Atlanta's newest link in its improved street lighting program.

Hundreds of spectators, mostly Negroes, stomped and whistled and the David T. Howard High School band struck up lively tunes as the three and one-tenths miles of new lights glared brilliantly along stretches of Auburn and Edgewood Avenues, and Decatur Street.

As enthusiastic as any among them was John Wesley Dobbs, co-chairman of the Atlanta Negro Voters League, whose hard-flung arm gave the signal for the throwing of the switch.

Dobbs was singled out to light the stretch by Mayor William B. Hartsfield, who declared the "greatest policeman in the world is light."

Councilman John A. White, Chairman of Council's Electric Lights Committee, told the biggest crowd yet to attend a street light dedication, that the new link added 59 units to the 855 previously lighted by the City. The systems now total 22 miles, White added.

Two other officers of the Atlanta Negro Voters League took part in the dedication program. They were A. T. Walton, co-chairman, and J. H. Calhoun, Executive Secretary.

The dedication was staged at the Auburn Avenue branch of the Atlanta Public Library. The 1,000-candlepower lights were installed on Decatur Street from Pryor to Cornelia Streets; Edgewood Avenue from Bell to Howard Streets, and Auburn Avenue from Ivy to Boulevard Streets.

PROGRESS AT ARLINGTON—W. B. Bostwick, Mayor of Arlington (right), is shown presenting W. O. Thomas, Secretary of the Negro Committee of Improvements, a certificate praising the Negro communities for co-operation in improvement projects during the year. W. J. Rambeau, vocational teacher at the Arlington Negro High School, is shown looking on.

Measure Is Given Final OK

WASHINGTON—With the stroke of his pen, President Truman will lift more than a million Negroes out of the nation's slums when he signs his national housing bill.

The bill, which provides for 810,000 low-rent public housing units, a billion and one half dollars slum clearance program and a $262,500,000 farm housing program, recently passed both Houses in Congress.

It now is in conference where differences in the Senate and House versions will be ironed out.

By a vote of 199 to 41, the House gave final approval of the measure after beating down two amendments barring segregation and discrimination in any housing constructed under provisions of the act.

Dr. Frank Horne, assistant to the Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, said, "the action of the House culminates six to eight years of hard toil by liberals fighting for a comprehensive program in which minority group organizations have carried their full share of the load."

The bill provided for 810,000 low-rent public housing units, a billion and one half dollars slum clearance program and a $262,500,000 aid program.

The House approved an amendment giving first preference for occupancy of any public housing to persons removed from their homes by slum clearance projects.

The amendment was proposed by Rep. Adam C. Powell, (D., N. Y.).

Passage of the bill scores the first major victory for President Truman's Fair Deal program. It also chalks up a stunning defeat for the powerful real estate lobby which through its Republican-Southern stooges in the House, waged a last-ditch fight to kill the bill.

The National Housing Act established for the first time in history a national housing policy which commits the government to aid private enterprise and supplement it, wherever necessary, to make it possible for "every American family" to have an opportunity for a decent home.

A proposal by Rep. Bennett, (D., Fla.), to require public hearings by local public housing authorities before they acquire land for slum clearance projects was adopted by a margin of 3 votes after Administration supporters had slapped down by a one-vote margin a proposal by Rep. Sykes, (R., Fla.), which would have required voters in the states to approve any slum clearance program before it was launched. While the Bennett amendment gives local real boards an opening to delay and in some instances block the slum clearance program, the provision is not considered a major setback for the program.

Leaders of the Republican onslaught against the low-rent public housing program under which Negroes stand to gain occupancy of at least 270,000 dwelling units were House Republican leader Joseph Martin, (R., Mass.) and Representatives Charles Halleck, (R., Ind.), and Jesse P. Wolcott, (R., Mich). Carrying the ball for the Administration were Majority Leader John McCormack, (D., Mass.), and Representatives Frank Buchanan, (D., Penn.), and Brent Spence, (D., Ky.), author and sponsor of the bill.

Supporters of the housing bill who opposed the Fulton non-segregation amendment said it would have added no racial safeguards to the bill which are not already covered by the measure itself. They point to the provision in Title One which states that any person displaced from an area in any slum clearance program must be provided housing in the same area or in a comparable area "not less desirable." Persons displaced by slum clearance programs whose incomes make them eligible for occupancy, get first priority in any low-rent public housing development. Those not eligible will be taken care of under the Powell amendment which gives them "preference" in any new housing built for families displaced in any slum clearance or redevelopment activities.

The Powell amendment was given the green light after a hurry-up whispered conference between Rep. Spence and Rep. William L. Dawson, (D., Ill.). When Powell proposed the amendment, Spence, chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee, who was handling the bill in the House which had resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole, raised a point of order against it.

Dawson, however, assured him that the proposal was sound and should be supported. Spence withdrew his point of order and asked for a vote on the amendment. Dawson also passed word along to the Illinois delegation to support the Powell amendment which was passed by an overwhelming vote. The amendment still must be agreed to by the Senate which has passed a housing bill without such a protection.

Housing

WHILE THE HOUSING bill has passed Congress, those interested in this program cannot afford to relax. There are three other big fights to be waged, two on the national level and one at the local level. Appropriations for all the programs as well as staff expansion must still pass Congress. In addition, Negroes have a prime interest in the Sparkman bill for medium-income housing which makes possible direct Federal grants to veteran and non-profit cooperatives when private financing is not available. This might help open up the avenues to bank funds heretofore closed to many Negro and interracial groups.

At the local level, Negroes must remain especially alert. They must get on local housing authorities, query local officials on plans for Negro developments and must prepare to testify at the local hearings which are required under terms of the law.

TRIBUTE TO A BUILDER

The announcement of a new housing development in the Anderson Avenue section being contemplated in the near future in Atlanta, is a sorely needed step toward relief for the incalculable hardships and woes Negro families have suffered and are continuing to suffer, as a result of displacements as well as overgrowth. This development, privately financed, as we understand it, is a laudable undertaking and a notable step in the right direction. But let us hasten to suggest, it is only a step in the direction of solving a grave housing problem.

This is in line with our oft repeated suggestion for years past that private individuals among us set about relieving the acute housing situation by private investments. Happily, we have one among us, who many years ago, saw the wisdom of this suggestion and has gone ahead with it until today, we are able to report substantial and satisfactory progress by him. Atlantans may well be proud of the contributions W. H. Aiken has made to this grave housing problem.

Mr. Aiken has developed a great number of housing areas before and during the War. Today, he continues to contribute to the solution of the tensions inherent in the housing situation. Mr. Aiken now has a few good, new modern homes immediately available. These houses are located in a subdivision known as Simpson Heights, about 10 minutes by a bus to Atlanta schools and colleges. An inspection of these homes would prove the trutr of our contention. For 28 years, Mr. Aiken has been in the housing business. He has made substantial progress in this business. He has relieved tensions and he has contributed to low-cost construction, combined quality and sound construction. One other feature of the Aiken homes is that the streets are wide and paved which lead to them, and there are city lights, gas water and sewage service.

Let other developers get into the housing business, it is patrotic to do so. Besides, it is a good paying business which can be depended upon for many years to come.

$72 Million Housing Project Proposed By Tech Students

Citizens visiting the offices of the Atlanta Urban League this week were given opportunity to see the results of a survey and proposal for a huge slum clearance project.

The survey and model housing project were worked out by senior engineering students of the Georgia School of Technology as a class project, The survey disclosed startling facts about the large Negro section adjacent to Auburn Avenue and the proposed project, costing $72 million, if brought into being, would provide decent living places for some 12,000 Negro citizens.

WORST SLUM

The Tech students declare the area of their proposed project is the worst slum section in Atlanta. They refer to it as the "black heart of Atlanta." Principally, it is the "Darktown", section of the old fourth ward. Here they find the highest tuberculosis rate, one of the highest rates of crime, juvenile delinquency, disease and infant mortality.

The area lacks recreational facilities, adequate school facilities, clinics, and libraries. The new project would provide all of these necessary facilities as well as decent homes, churches and stores.

Interesting statistics gathered by the Tech students concerning the slum section which would be wiped out by their project are these: 1.The community now swallows $9.00 of municipal and state services for every tax dollar return. They contend that the difference in the cost to the city and state in terms of health and crime alone would make up for the $8.00 difference in the public bill.

2. Structures in the slum area are entirely opposed to the concept of health. At least 12 percent of the dwellings have their access in narrow alleys, 22 percent of the houses are without kitchen sinks, and 23 percent have only back-yard water taps, shared with other families. Furthermore, 78 percent of the families have NO washing facilities, such as a wash basin or laundry tub. Only 33 percent of these families have inside private toilets, and 45 percent have NO bath facilities (almost half.)

EXPLOIT MISERY

3. Sixty-eight percent of the households have an income of $150.00 per month and 21.1 percent have an income of $250.00 or more. Average rent for 72 percent of the families is less than $20.00, indicating, the Tech students say that they could afford better homes if given the opportunity.

4. A typical block in the Negro district was found to cost $65,400 whereas in the white area around Boulevard, a typical block cost $45,000. Landowners' greed, say the Tech students, makes the crowded, Negro shanty blocks cost $16,650 per acre, and the white blocks $11,700 per acre. At the present-day value of real estate, the price of the total area, $25,508,000, is double the tax assessor's value of $12,754,000. Thus, the engineers say, do unscrupulous land-owners exploit misery and need for shelter.

Editor's note: This indicates why "the realty lobby fights against a public housing bill in Congress)

SCHOOL DISCRIMINATIONS

5. An interesting fact is that C. W. Hill School in the area, with an attendance of 2010, has buildings worth $84,933. On the other hand, Forrest School for whites, with an attendance of 396, has buildings worth $155,322. Thus the Forrest School is worth per pupil 9.35 times the value per pupil of Hill School. Hill School has 21 classes of over 50 students per class per class hour.

The Tech students are hoping that their display of the model housing project will arouse the interest of Atlantans to do something about the huge slum area.

Housing Group Adopts Policy Of Non-Bias

There will be no discrimination based on race or color in any housing it builds, the Chicago Dwellings Association agreed unanimously in executive session last Friday.

Announcement of the governing policy was made this week by Walter L. Lowe, insurance broker and member of the board of directors of the Chicago Dwellings Association, a non-profit municipal body set up to build permanent housing at moderate rental for veterans and their families.

The method of tenant selection is the same as that followed by the Chicago Housing Authority another municipal corporation, insofar as race, color or religion of the applicants is concerned.

At present, the agency is working to erect 600 units at 61st st., and Cottage Grove ave. The apartments will be in multi-story dwellings, and will range from three to five and a half rooms. Rental will be scaled to the lower middle income bracket.

Journee Does The 'Impossible' Job; Provides Co-op Housing

The "impossible" job has been accomplished and the man who did it has proved that his housing ideas gained from 40 years in the field were sound. That man is Journee White.

During the five years he has been in Chicago, while others talked, he acted. Operating on the theory of action rather than words, White first acquired the apartments at 4210 Michigan ave., for veterans, then Drexel Vista apartments at 4430-4458 Drexel blvd. and finally Tudor Gables, 4830 Drexel blvd.

Now through his and the efforts of others construction is to begin on one of Chicago's largest private housing developments. Only the transfer of Reconstruction Finance Corporation funds is required to start steam shovels and other building equipment operating.

11 Eight-Story Buildings

With the assistance of several prominent Southsiders and countless home-seekers and others with faith in his idea of cooperative housing, Old White City at 63rd and South Parkway will be transformed into 11 eight-story elevator buildings containing new, modern units for approximately 400 families.

The Parkway Gardens Homes, an organization consisting of White, Earl B. Dickerson and Truman K. Gibson, Jr., attorneys and Theodore Jones, Certified Public Accountant, sold one million dollars worth of certificates to prospective occupants of the development.

A Strong Supporter

A strong supporter of his idea also has been his wife, Major Harriet White, former WAC officer and an officer in Journee, Inc.

Starting out at 6306 Cottage Grove in 1944. with one employe, a secretary, Mrs. Angie Allen, within 30 days, Mr. White had 25 employes in and out of his office.

As soon as Parkway Gardens was announced for development, Dr. Luther B. Hylton became the first investor. However, Mr. White soon learned that he had a difficult job before him in educating people on the value of cooperative housing.

It was through the efforts of Mrs. Alice C. Dillion and Atty. Kent Chetland that White took over the Tudor Gables Estate at 4830 Drexel blvd., on May 13. 1949. This was a continuation of his cooperative housing program, providing 114 units for Negro families. Evaluation of the property is placed at $800,000, constituting probably the largest transaction of an individual Negro realtor in Chicago.

Pointing out that achievement of such success in the critical housing situation was no means a "one man job," White has the highest praise for everyone, big and little, who worked with him. But one fact remains—such a huge project needed a dynamic driving force and it was provided by Journee White.

The Ghetto Perpetuated

Dear Sirs: While civil rights received a Senatorial rebuff in March, Chicago Democrats also performed some little-noted service to Jim Crow.

On March 2 the Democrat-dominated City Council killed, by a vote of thirty-one to thirteen, the Carey ordinance which would have prevented discrimination in any publicly aided Chicago housing project. The councilmen who voted against the measure were greatly influenced by the strongly worded opposition to it of the "reform" Mayor Kennelly, as well as that of the Chicago press in general, including, shocking as it may seem, the *Sun-Times*.

Kennelly said that the ordinance threatened the city's slum-clearance program, for which the voters had approved a $15,000,000 bond issue in 1947. This money is earmarked for the purchase and clearance of blighted land, which will then be resold to private developers at one-sixth of cost. Life-insurance capital is being sought, with this public subsidy as a lure. In addition to this money Chicago has had $40,000,000 available for housing since 1947. Not one unit has been started. The chief reason has been the city's unwillingness to face realities.

Chicago has 400,000 Negroes, crowded into the same areas that housed 280,000 in 1940. Their living conditions are pathetic, and the resultant social problems are notorious. All proposals to ease the pressure of this ghetto by building on vacant land in "white" areas of the city have been turned down by the Mayor and the City Council. Instead, Chicagoans are offered a slum-clearance program with emphasis on high-rent life-insurance projects. As a result, the Negro population here feels terribly threatened. The city is making ready to acquire Negro homes, tear them down, and allow private investors to build high-rent apartments for whites only. Slum clearance thus becomes Negro clearance. F. ADRIAN ROBSON,
Chicago Congregational Union
Chicago, March 23

ALBERT Barnett

Chicago Housing Authority Practices Fair Employment

The interest of Negroes throughout the nation in federally-sponsored, low-rent housing projects is four-fold.

They welcome the chance to get out of the rat-infested, dilapidated shacks of slum areas and move into modern, fire-proof homes having all the equipment and facilities for comfortable living; family breadwinners consider it a Heaven-sent blessing that the unit rentals are within their budgetary reach and scaled down proportionate to family income; they find comfort and encouragement in the fact that, in the North, the projects are interracial, so far as occupancy is concerned and families are not barred because of race or religion and finally many Negro laborers — skilled and unskilled — can find work on project sites at the prevailing wage scale, thus making it possible for them to help build a homes project in which, when completed they, themselves may live.

A case in point is the notable record made by the Chicago Housing Authority in building the 11 major low-rent projects and their 20 temporary housing projects for veterans — all of them interracial in practice as well as in theory.

Largest of the permanent homes projects are the Ida B. Wells, Altgeld Gardens, Jane Addams, Robert Brooks and Francis Cabrini homes. The Ida B. Wells, Altgeld Gardens, Robert Brooks and Wentworth Homes are all 100 per cent Negro-occupied because they are located in predominantly colored districts.

At Jane Addams Houses on Chicago's Westside, of the 1027 total family units, 43, or 4 per cent, are Negroes; at Francis Cabrini, on the near Northside, of the 584 units, 139, or 24 per cent, are occupied by Negroes. Of the 3,341 temporary housing projects for veterans, 638, or 19 per cent, have Negro occupancy. All this is in keeping with the iron-clad rule of the Chicago Housing Authority that no restriction be made against tenants, based on religion or race.

With the eyes of the nation focused on the spirited effort being made to secure passage of federal and state fair employment legislation, it is interesting to note that CHA has solved the FEPC problem in its own way — that of embodying the labor differential — skilled and unskilled — as affecting Negroes, in the book of specifications governing the general contractor and all sub-contractors engaged in building the project.

During construction of the 1,658 family units in the Ida B. Wells Homes, it was specified that 3.5 per cent of all skilled laborers and 13.5 of unskilled laborers, be Negroes. But as the project developed, a great number of qualified Negroes were found in the various trades, the percentage of Negro skilled workers at one time reached a peak of nearly 24 per cent of the total.

Similarly, the 'book' percentage of 13.5 for Negro unskilled laborers jumped to an all-time high of nearly 45 per cent. This means that at the peak of construction, almost one-half of all unskilled laborers working on the huge site were Negroes.

Both Neilson and the various building trade officials have been commended for following this fair practice rule wholeheartedly. Figures speak for themselves. During April, 60 per cent of the bricklayers; 54 per cent of the cement finishers; 50 per cent of the pipe fitters; 11 per cent of the carpenters and 40 per cent of the common laborers, were Negroes.

This is a remarkable record, one that should set the pattern

for the building industry throughout the country. Negro workers are as qualified as any and should be given a chance to prove their worth. None of the bricks laid in a slum-clearance project, on Chicago's Gold Coast or Manhattan's Park Avenue, carry any label of race. In fair employment, a job well begun, is half done.

ALBERT Barnett

Illinois Co-Ops Develop Interracial 'Utopia'

AN interesting experiment in interracial, co-operative housing is being conducted with marked success in York Center, an unincorporated community, in DuPage County, Illinois, near the town of Villa Park. Chicago Defender

The spirit of tolerance, friendliness and understanding that characterizes York Center could well be emulated by other communities throughout the country, for the brand new homes, now under construction, will house Negroes, whites, Swedes, Italians, Nisei, Catholics and Protestants. Chicago, Ill.

Basic rule and tenet of the colony is that real brotherhood prevails and there must be no restriction against any prospective builder because of race, color or religion. Sat. 6-4-49

Result is that construction of the homes on the 65-acre tract is moving apace and some have been completed and occupied.

Idea for the novel co-op was broached by the Rev. John Heckman, 75, pastor of the Church of the Brethren, when he was approached by a group of young married parishioners, who wanted modern homes, but, as individual family units, couldn't afford them.

The Rev. Heckman advised them to pool their energy, money and skill, work on a cooperative basis, each helping the other, and they would soon be able to own their homes. With one of their number, Jesse H. Ziegler, serving as secretary, the co-op was incorporated in 1945, and later the acreage of Farmer Golterman was purchased for $30,000.

The co-op was put to the test in 1947, when two Negro families sought membership and there was a divergence of opinion as to their admissibility. A meeting was called but fortunately the liberals outnumbered the malcontents and reactionaries. It was decided then and there that no racial or religious bar should be raised against any applicant. 6-4-49

A few of the die-hards deserted the ranks but their places were promptly taken by others who approved of the co-op's broad, humanitarian policy, many declaring that it was precisely the kind of community in which they wanted to live.

Suiting the action to the word, the members elected as president a civic minded, aggressive Negro—Theodore T. Robinson, as president. A capable and respected member of the Illinois Bar, Attorney Robinson is also technical adviser to the Illinois Department of Labor.

Construction of the York Center homes follows a novel and ingenious, but highly efficient plan. Most all of the members are skilled in one or more of the building trades. Among them are carpenters, plumbers, electricians, plasterers, roofers, etc., and as work on the individual home progresses, each donates his time and labor to his neighbor, thus setting up a 'work bank,' to his credit in lieu of the actual cash. 6-4-49

For instance, if Member Brown, a carpenter, works 10 hours on the home of Member Green, an electrician, the latter returns the favor by giving Brown 10 hours work installing his electric lights and appliances. And so on, down the line, each member helping the other until the house is completed, all installations in and the grounds landscaped.

HOMES OR SLUMS

The Afro-American
by Associated Negro Press
Baltimore, Md.

For what is said to be the first time in the nation's history, a group of three colored insurance companies have banded together to take the lead in rebuilding a city's slum areas. Last week, they announced plans to construct new homes in one of Chicago's worst blighted districts. Sat.

The three firms committing themselves to improving an area were the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance, the Metropolitan Mutual Assurance and the Jackson Mutual Life Insurance Company. Their plans are to begin building by spring. 1-8-49

Two other colored insurance companies, the Victory Mutual Life and the Unity Mutual Life also may enter the program.

50-Homes Project Set

Truman K. Gibson Sr., president of Supreme Liberty and leading spokesman for the plan, said that the program will begin with a 50-homes project in a two-square-block area. "This will be only a start of a six block development," he added.

The Chicago Land Clearance Commission, in charge of buying slum land for rebuilding by private firms, has already approved the insurance companies' plans.

Mayor Martin H. Kennelly took the first action last week by introducing a resolution to the City Council authorizing the land clearance commission to purchase the area to be rebuilt.

To Adjoin White Project

In supporting this slum clearance program financially, the colored firms added their names to that of the New York Life Insurance Company to redevelop an area once considered one of Chicago's best residential districts.

The New York firm will rebuild the area from 31st to 33rd Sts., between South Parkway and Cottage Grove Ave. It also plans to build a four-block shopping center between 31st and 35th Sts., on South Parkway. Sat. 1-8-49

Building by the colored firms will be just south of the New York project. Opening their program will be 50 homes representing $650,000 initial investment between 33rd and 34th Pls., from Rhodes Ave. to Cottage Grove. Those homes will sell from $12,000 to $15,000 each.

Relief for Ousted Tenants

Commenting on the purpose of this project, Gibson said:

"The homes will be built primarily for property owners who will be displaced by the New York Life project. We hope to get approval from the city council so that we can get construction under way by spring.

"We consider the first 50 homes as just the beginning because we have an excellent opportunity of assisting our policyholders through not only taking care of persons displaced by other projects, but also contributing to the economic life of this district by helping get rid of the slums." 1-8-49

Scheme Widely Praised

Praise for the insurance companies' plans are coming from many sources. John McKinlay, chairman of the Land Clearance Commission, related: Sat.

"This proposal shows that colored capital not only has full confidence in the city's slum clearance and redevelopment program, but also wishes to participate directly in this program."

RIGHT OF NEGROES INS NEW HOUSING

Leaders of Two Races, Three Religions Get State's Help for Manhasset Area

New York Times

The story of how community ...rs in Manhasset, L. I., kept ...ing away at minor problems ... they understood fully the ...using situation faced by their ...gro neighbors and finally won ...te aid for low-cost housing was ...d yesterday by an area spokes...an for the group.

The speaker was William H. ... of the New York Telephone ...pany who lives in Manhasset. ... reported to the Catholic Inter...al Council of 20 Vesey Street, ...se director, George K. Hunton, ...rted the work four years ago by ...nging together some Manhasset ...dents of both races and three ...gions, "who wanted to find a ...nd approach to community ...blems."

...r. Pusey was born up-state, but ... lived in Manhasset for eight... years. His feeling about poor ...sing did not come all at once, ...ays, but after studying the ...vey that other residents of the ...munity had made, he became ...vinced that the domestics and ...deners who make up most of ... Negro residents of the commu...ity, "deserved a better break."

Houses in Bad Condition

The survey disclosed, he said, ...t a tenth of the Negro homes ...d no electric lights. Out of 191 ...nits studied, eighty-one needed ...jor repairs. There were houses ...ith poor roofs, poor floors and ...me without good drainage. Many ...mes had no inside toilets. Not ... the outside toilets had sewage ...nnections. There was, in most ...tances, inadequate heating or ... heating at all. A third of the ...uses were without gas ovens for ...oking. Five per cent of them ...d no cooking facilities, the re...rt read.

Overcrowding was the case in ...ost instances, he said, with six or ...ven persons living in three or ...ur rooms. The judgment of the ...mmittee making the survey was ... thirty-one of the houses were ...nfit for human habitation."

Rawson L. Wood, a Brooklyn ...nufacturer who also lives in ...nhasset, said that everybody in ...t area would feel proud when ... project was completed. He ...inted out that most of the resi...nts of the project would be ...groes, "since they are in great... need," but that the houses ...ld be available to every race, creed and color.

Approval of the $2,000,000 state loan for the housing project was granted about two years ago, but high costs and the lack of materials have delayed the development. The office of Herman T. Stichman, State Housing Commissioner, said construction would start this spring. Rentals will be pegged at $8.77 a room, the latest estimates read.

A gift of land from John Hay Whitney to Nassau County will make available for the project the facilities of a state park. The Long Island Sound is a mile away from the developments.

Plans passed by the State Housing Division include the construction of seventy home units in Port Washington at a cost of $802,755. The rest of the grant, $1,197,245, will be used for 100 units in the Manhasset Valley area. The communities benefited by the project were listed as Manhasset, Great Neck, Port Washington and Roslyn, L. I. Some 1,500 Negroes are said to live in or near Manhasset.

Race Ban Dropped From Leases On Rented Homes in Levittown

New York Herald Tribune, New York, N.Y.
Sun. 5-29-49

The elimination of a clause in the leases which limited use and occupancy of rented houses in Levittown, L. I., to "members of the Caucasian race" was confirmed last night by William Levitt, president of Levitt and Sons, developers of the Long Island project which bears their name. Mr. Levitt said that there is "no reason" to retain the clause which barred Negroes from the veterans' housing development.

Concerning the charge that the company had refused to sell houses to Negroes, Mr. Levitt had "no comment." He pointed out that sales contracts contained no limitations in this connection.

First word of the change in leases came from the Committee to End Discrimination in Levittown when a representative said that it had received a letter from Franklin D. Richards, commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration, in Washington, informing them that the clause to which they took exception had been taken out. Mr. Richards' letter said that he had been informed by Thomas Grace, New York F. H. A. director, that the reason for their objection to Levittown leases had apparently been eliminated.

Mr. Grace said last night that he would have "no comment" until Tuesday when he would be at his office at 90 Church Street. Mr. Richards said over the telephone from Washington that he had heard from Mr. Grace that the builders had changed their leases, and he had thereupon written the letter.

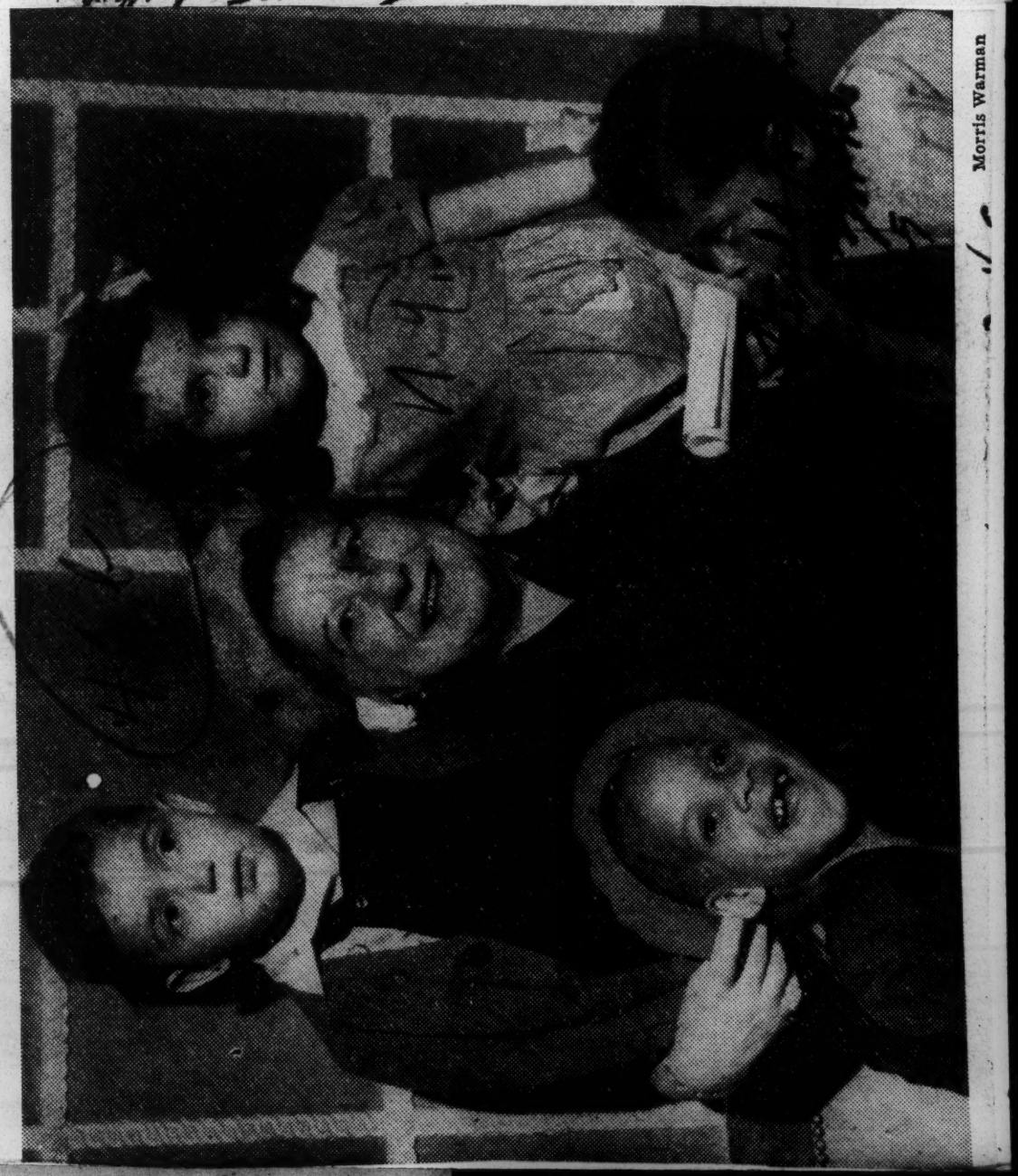
Sun. 5-29-49

The Levittown committee had sought, and been granted, an interview with Mr. Richards in his Washington office for Friday. His letter was to ask whether the meeting would still be necessary since the clause had been withdrawn. A representative of the committee said last night that a meeting has been called for Monday night or Tuesday to decide whether the fight is to be carried further.

Sun. 5-29-49

Clause 25 in the Levittown leases previously read as follows: "The tenant agrees not to permit the premises to be used or occupied by any person other than members of the Caucasian race, but the employment and maintenance of other than Caucasian domestic servants shall be permitted."

A recent Supreme Court ruling said that such restrictions might be included in covenants of sale or rental but that they might not be enforceable if contested.



Morris Warman

Named New York's Foster Mother of the Year

Mrs. Betty Mikovich, of 90-48 179th Place, Jamaica, Queens, with group of children at Cavanagh's Restaurant yesterday as she was honored by the Mayor's Committee on Child Care

NEW OUTLOOK SEEN ON NEGRO HOUSING

FHA Official Finds 'Softened' Attitude Toward Minority Groups by Investors

Investors have "softened their attitude" toward Negroes and other minority groups in the field of housing, Thomas G. Grace, New York director of the Federal Housing Administration, asserted yesterday.

He said savings banks and building and loan associations were willing to finance houses for areas that needed them provided the land cost was not too high. Attributing a changed attitude to a campaign of housing education carried on among bank and builders' groups by FHA officials, Mr. Grace asserted that there was now an investing class "of a different state of mind from the speculators of the pre-war period."

The re-assuring factor for investors is the presence of the same 90 per cent insurance guarantee for Negro housing as for any other housing, the director said.

Pointing to a record of achievement in recent months, the director said that FHA had already approved a 136-room, thirty-seven unit project to be constructed at St. Nicholas Avenue and 163d Street. The project is intended for Negro occupancy. A smaller project was previously announced for Hamilton Place near the campus of City College but plans have been held up for modification and the elimination of unnecessary decorations, he said.

He said that FHA had looked with favor on several projects for Nassau County, all intended for Negro occupancy. Among these he listed two units of about 200 apartments, usually of the two-bedroom type. A 450-unit project in Hempstead, L. I., has been considered for Negro occupancy.

Mr. Grace said that FHA did not look with favor upon plans to renovate old apartment houses in Harlem or elsewhere, "because fifty years is old enough for a house and in many cases renovation would be adding ten or more years to buildings that should come down."

'PROJECTS' BECOME HOME, SWEET HOME

New Housing Already a Joy to Thousands, Soon One in 25 Will Live in Them

FRESH AIR AND PLAY AREAS

Tenants Laugh at Bogey of 'Stratification'—All Agree It's a Friendly Set-Up

By WILLIAM M. FARRELL

From atop the Empire State Building the tall, reddish-tan buildings standing in spectacular array along the East River are an impressive post-war addition to the New York skyline. But to thousands of New Yorkers they're not just scenery. They're home.

Within a few years, one in every twenty-five residents of the city will live in these housing "projects," or others like them. To the eye, whether seen from above or from street level, they are strikingly unlike the old walk-up tenements and dreary rows of brownstone fronts. Furthermore, they are causing some notable changes in city life.

From the air the project buildings appear to be shaped like distorted block letters. This is because skilled architects have found that in this way they can provide more windows, for sunshine and summer breezes. It is a welcome change to families moving in from ill-ventilated, dingy tenements.

People have many things in common, in these projects. Some housing specialists are concerned that the projects tend to group the population in a common income level. Only families of low income are eligible to live in the public developments, while the privately built ones seem to attract tenants in the moderate-income groups.

But this "stratification" appeals to project dwellers asked about it.

Among Their Own Kind

"My children meet richer and poorer children in school, and I get to know other types of people at work," is a typical comment. "When we come home, we like to be among folks that have about as much as we do. Besides, we can invite anybody here to see us."

The projects have upset New York's old pattern of neighborhoods dominated by people of similar national backgrounds. Many a project building puts under one roof families as varied as the city's own "melting pot" population.

The typical building is a "mixing spoon," where people of all races, all creeds, all national borders. This is especially true of the projects where no discrimination against Negroes or anyone else is permitted.

Over the centuries of the city's growth, neighborhoods used to expand, pretty much, one house at a time. The buildings would rise, shoulder to shoulder, with as little land as possible "wasted" on yards and breathing space. Buildings of this sort, with their long, narrow hallways, their stuffy, poorly lighted rooms, still abound. And their haphazard growth still continues, of course.

Land is as costly to a project builder as to anyone else. But by operating on a large scale—some projects house about 600 families, one contains 12,000—the builder is able to make more economical use of his land. He builds high and perhaps handsome—but not wide. The spaces he has reserved between buildings become play areas, lawns, paths for evening walks, places where people can meet and form friendships.

Small Towns in the City

The projects are the result of long years of planning by thousands of social workers, legislators, politicians, investors, architects, engineers. And the curious effect of all this highly urban, metropolitan planning is to bring some aspects of small-town life into the heart of the city.

"I live on the twelfth floor," says a resident of Stuyvesant Town, Manhattan, where 8,755 families have moved in since the place was opened in August, 1947. "I come down in the elevator every morning, on the way to work. Where I used to live, nobody said anything to anybody. Here, when we meet a neighbor in the elevator, we say 'Good morning,' or something like that.

"And when we come out of the building, do you know what we look at first? The grass, and that tree over there—it's a maple, they tell me. Sometimes we see a bird sitting on a branch. I say that's a good way to start the day—with neighbors, trees and sometimes a little wildlife."

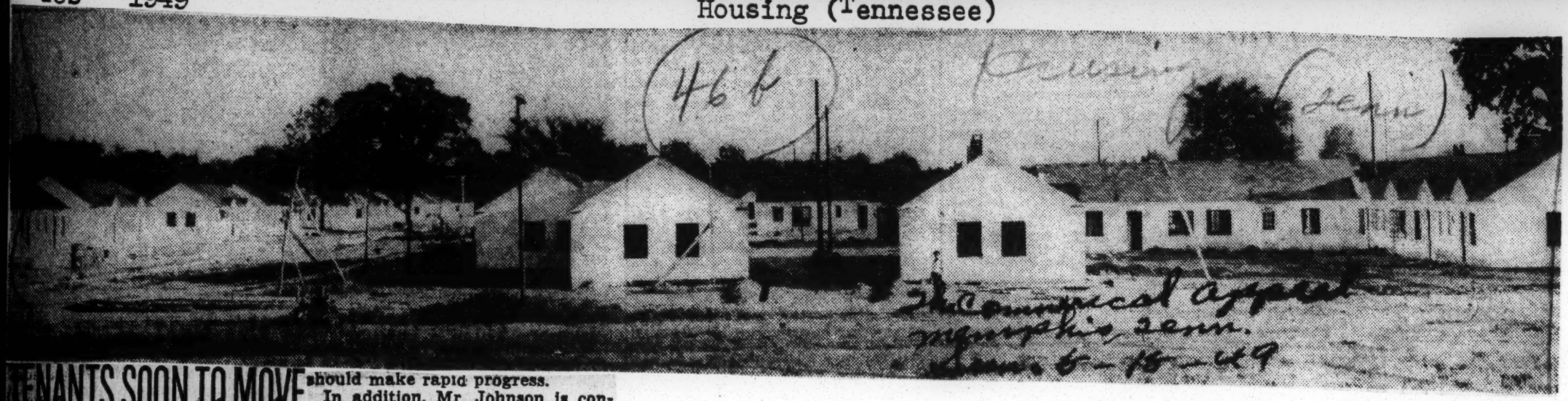
At Abraham Lincoln Houses, in Harlem, a tall Negro was giving his two small children rides on the playground swings.

"This is a wonderful place for kids," he said. "And it's wonderful for my wife and me. The house is clean, and you can keep it that way. It's not like an old house, where no matter how hard you work you can't make things look real clean."

His remark about cleanliness was echoed by a woman at Kingsborough Houses, in Brooklyn. She added details.

"I love it here," she said. "No mice! And no cockroaches! And I never expected I'd be rid of bedbugs. But, say, let me tell you about my refrigerator!"

A Negro mother, at Kingsborough, told of her 9-year-old son and how he learned respect for property. The New York City Housing Authority occasionally levies a 50-cent fine against the parents of a child caught damaging plants. This mother told her son about the fine, and added that if he broke a tree limb or injured a shrub he would spoil things everyone enjoyed.



TENANTS SOON TO MOVE INTO VANDALIA HOMES

Located On Johnson East Of Tillman

SECOND BIG JOB TO START

By LILLARD M'GEE
Real Estate Editor

Vandalia Homes, the new 176-family unit negro housing project on Johnson east of Tillman, rapidly is nearing completion and first families probably will move in about June 1, Wallace E. Johnson, the owner-builder of the project, announced yesterday.

The project is divided into two, four, eight, 10 and 12 unit buildings and negroes will be able to rent a modern one-bedroom unit for about $31 a month and a two-bedroom unit for about $37.50.

What Landlord Furnishes

The owners will furnish icebox, stove, Venetian blinds and water with each apartment. Tenants will pay for gas and electricity.

The apartments are compact but with sufficient space for comfortable living. Exterior of the buildings is of asphalt shingle siding. The apartments are built on concrete slab foundations with asphalt tile floors laid over [illegible] and interiors are plastered and painted.

The Vandalia project is the first of two big multiple housing projects planned for completion this year by the Johnson organization.

The second, Lincoln Homes, will be located in the Kondike north of Cypress Creek.

Construction on this project is to be started within the next few weeks and with good building weather this Summer the project should make rapid progress.

In addition, Mr. Johnson is contemplating the building of a number of negro sales houses to sell for less than $5000.

The Johnson projects are but part of the remendous amount of negro home construction in Memphis since the end of the war that has resulted in national publicity for the city.

In all more than 1100 units of negro sales and rental housing have been built in Memphis by private financing since the end of the war.

What Has Been Done

These include some 81 sales houses built by H. Dlugach & Co. off South Bellevue near Lincoln Park, 335 built by Herbert Morton, Inc., for the Florida Real Estate Loan Co. in Riverdale Subdivision off South Riverside Drive; some 40 sales houses built by Mr. Johnson in Memphis, 48 by H. G. Dickey, 45 by J. E. Bowden and numerous scattered sales and rental units by other [illegible]

There was in addition the 36 unit apartment project in Orange Mound built under the sponsorship of James E. McGehee & Co. and the John Larkin Co.

R. W. Horner, state FHA director, has estimated that 5000 economy houses for negroes for purchase and rent could be absorbed within Memphis within a year.

619 New Negro Dwellings Will Be Ready by Jan. 1

At least 619 Negro families in Dallas will have new homes before the first of the year.

And there are over 1,000 more homes on the way in three major building projects, a survey by The Dallas News shower Sunday.

This is the first serious step taken by private builders in almost ten years to help relieve critical congestion in Dallas Negro residential districts.

In that time, Dallas has gained almost 4,000 Negro families for an estimated total population of about 70,000, John W. Rice, manager of the Dallas Negro Chamber of Commerce, said Sunday.

"There is, conservatively, a need for 4,000 to 6,000 new dwellings for Negroes," he said.

The three projects that are being built now will provide about 2,000 dwellings—two for apartments that will rent at $45 a month and the other for homes to sell for $5,600 to $8,200.

They are all attractive, livable quarters, served with gas, lights, city water and sewer, and built to qualify for loans insured by Federal Housing Administration or the Veterans Administration.

"We are greatly encouraged by the progress made in recent months to help erase the shortage of houses for our people," Rice said.

Foundations are in and framing has started for apartments at Hillside Manor, a 114-unit project off Harry Hines Boulevard just north of Plantation Road. Its developers, Tom Lively, Ira Rupley and C. Grady Cates, said first units will be finished about Nov. 1 and the entire project completed before Jan. 1.

Hillside Manor has nineteen 2-story buildings of varicolored asbestos siding built around a circular court. Spaces are allotted for five laundry and storage buildings and five play areas.

On twenty-two acres of land in South Dallas, Builder W. H. Cothrum started work two weeks ago on a two-million-dollar Southern Terraces—408 redwood and stucco apartments. Ninety of the apartments will be ready to occupy by the first of the year, Cothrum said Saturday. All 408 will be finished by April 1.

Southern Terraces is the largest private rental development for Negroes in Dallas. The 2-bedroom apartments, furnished with stove and refrigerator and with water bills paid, will rent for $45 a month.

Chest Extends Heart-Case Aid To Negroes

Courier-Journal, 10-27-49
Louisville, Ky.

Foster Homes Provided For Ill Children

The Community Chest yesterday announced foster-home is being provided here for Negro children who are convalescent because of heart ailments.

The first of these homes, operated by Mrs. Fannie Spencer, 1037 W. Hill, already is caring for three patients and will admit one more later.

Under a co-operative plan, the Children's Agency pays the cost of food and other boarding-home expenses, Louisville General Hospital's doctors provide medical care, and the Visiting Nurse Association provides nursing care. The Children's Agency and the Visiting Nurse Association are Red Feather agencies of the Chest.

Need Special Diets.

White children needing similar care have for several years been cared for at the Jewish Children's Home, 1135 S. First, also a Chest agency.

The patients, whose hearts have been weakened by rheumatic fever and other causes, require special diets an dconstant bed rest.

John B. Buschemeyer, director of General Hospital, said many families are unable to provide such care at home, and the public hospital has no convalescent beds for the children.

Some homes, he said, have no indoor toilets and no running water. They are crowded so that the patient can't have a bed to himself.

In such conditions, Buschemeyer said, the patient never would improve.

Groups Aid Program.

Miss Geraldine B. Graham, executive secretary of the Children's Agency, said one of the children being cared for by Mrs. Spencer is from a home in which there are 10 children.

Miss Graham said the agency hopes most of the children will be improved enough within six months to leave the foster home and provide a bed for another child needing care. Families that are able to do so will pay part of the cost of the care.

Groups here have aided in the venture, she said, by gifts of beds, bedding, and money. Others will provide volunteers to relieve Mrs. Spencer for part of the day.

Negro Social Groups To Open Meeting Today

The Epicurean Club of Louisville will be host to the annual convention of the National Dukes Clubs of America, beginning here today.

The clubs are Negro social organizations. Members represent numerous professions and are not all chefs, as was stated in previous newspaper accounts.

Some 300 members from Akron, Chicago, Columbus, Indianapolis, and Louisville will attend the three-day affair.

Dedicate New Belmont House for Girls

Shown are some of the officials and guests of the Women's Christian Alliance who attended the dedication of the new Belmont House for Girls on Sunday. Seated, from left, are: Mrs. Janevieve Byrd of the Municipal Court; Mrs. Sarah S. Collins, Alliance director; Mrs. Carolyn Clark, staff worker, and Mrs. Augustine Taylor of West Chester. Standing, from left, are: Robert Byrd, Miss Vera Gunn, Mrs. Ida Stanbury, staff worker; Mrs. Helen Wilson of the Children's Society; Griffin Collins, Mrs. Carolyn Taylor, Arthur Thomas, McKinley Edmonds, Howard Garcia and Mrs. Nellie Hollins of Municipal Court.

Mrs. Gragg New Head of Welfare

Free Press 4-13-49
Detroit Times

Mrs. Rosa L. Gragg became president of the Detroit Welfare Commission the same day that she was appointed a member.

She is the commission's first Negro member.

* * *

HER APPOINTMENT and promotion were announced Monday by Mayor Van Antwerp. The swift shuffle that put her at the head of the commission was caused by this legal technicality:

Dr. William D. Ryan, commission president, was barred from becoming a member of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors because he is a County medical examiner. A County employe cannot serve on the board.

Relief Chief

Free Press Photo

MRS. ROSA L. GRAGG
Welfare Commission president

In order to have a commission member on the board, Van Antwerp appointed Ryan to fill an old vacancy on the commission.

* * *

MRS. GRAGG was appointed to Ryan's former term and automatically became president and a member of the Board of Supervisors. Her term will expire March 1, 1950.

Mrs. Gragg lives at 235 Arden Park. She is president and founder of the Slade Gragg Academy of Practical Arts at 455 E. Ferry.

She is president emeritus of the Detroit Association of Women's Clubs, founder of the association's center at 5461 Brush and a steward of the Bethel A. M. E. Church and director of its religious education.

She also was the State's adviser on race relations while Murray D. Van Wagoner was governor.

Social Worker Heads Nation-Wide Program

Miss Jane E. Hunter, who recently resigned her position as head of the Cleveland Phillis Wheatley Association, will devote her efforts in the future to establishing similar associations throughout the country through the work of the Phillis Wheatley Foundation. 1-15-49

Vanishing American Issues

Student Editors Discover The South

From The New York Herald-Tribune

"The Next Voter" is a student paper of political opinion published twice monthly by members of a course in political science at the Brooks School, North Andover, Mass. In preparation for the next issue, four of its editors, aged seventeen—Guilford Dudley 3d, Morgan Harris, Jr., John Keating, Jr., and Goeffrey Kimball—have been traveling through six Southern states accompanied by their faculty adviser, Peter F. Wiener. A preliminary report of their trip follows. —Ed.

WE STOPPED first in Washington. We had an afternoon inside the White House and attended the president's press conference. We had long talks with Mr. Justice Frankfurter, with President Johnson of Howard University, and above all with many southern senators and congressmen, from Senator McKellar to Senator Pepper—or vice versa, according to your political opinions.

Then we toured Virginia and Tennessee, with a day each at Knoxville and Oak Ridge. When we arrived in Nashville, we were asked by The Nashville Banner to report the proceedings of the Institute of Race Relations, which was having its annual meeting at Fisk University. Then we traveled through the Carolinas and deep into Georgia.

THE RACIAL relationship in the South is quite different from what we were led to expect. We thought we might find some kind of racial persecution and real misery among the Negroes. We can truthfully say that the Negroes we have seen and spoken to seemed, almost without exception, happy and that on the whole the relationship between black and white in the South was more friendly, more co-operative, more understanding and more constructive than many relationships between, say, white management and white labor in the North.

For this there are, probably, a number of reasons. First, the Southern Negro seems happy by nature. Therefore, his contentment is not necessarily a sign that conditions—especially economic and educational ones—are what they ought to be.

Second, everybody agreed that enormous progress had been made in recent decades. The Negroes are the first to appreciate and to acknowledge this. As one of the colored university professors said to us: "We are in a healthy and constructive process of evolution."

While educational facilities in particular are by no means what they should be and, let us hope, ultimately will be, there can be no doubt that an educational evolution is in progress in the South.

WHETHER THIS is due to the political wisdom and the human initiative of the Southerners or to the "permanent pressure from the North"—a frequent and not altogether popular phrase in the South—is debatable. It is probably a combination of both. The Southerner claims that the Northerner's interference is merely harmful; the Northerner is convinced that without his permanent pressure nothing whatever would be done.

We did not come across one single Southerner who objected to all the provisions of President Truman's civil rights program. The poll tax is already in the process of being abolished by the individual states. Lynching is extremely rare (but widely advertised whenever it occurs) and not really an acute problem. As for the Fair Employment Practices Commission, most Southerners told us it was something to be aimed at but that it could not possibly be achieved by federal legislation.

And, strangely enough, while the Negroes themselves are anxious to have full economic and educational equality (but much less anxious than some of their white Northern friends) they would certainly not welcome the abolition of racial segregation.

Over and over again, Negroes said to us that they are proud of their race, that they would like to keep their race apart, and that while there should be human and other equality, while there should be the friendliest co-operation, they themselves would like to see the continuation of segregation.

THE REAL objection made by Southerners to the President's proposals is that some are not realizable, owing to local conditions and traditions, and that others are already being translated into practice by the states themselves.

There are two other points which impressed us considerably. First, much has been written about the differences between North and South.

True, there are many differences of opinion, approach and practice. But divergence and disagreement are the basis of every democratic government. If one comes down to fundamentals such as a political philosophy, ethical values and human beliefs. then there is no difference between the South and the rest of the country. The Southerner seemed to us as God-fearing and fighting a Democrat as any one can be.

THE LAST point we wish to raise may seem altogether too personal. The fact remains that we learned more political science in six weeks than we could have done in three years of book study.

And yet, throughout our trip, we did not meet one single other group of students from the East, the North or the West. We feel certain that if we had gone to France or Italy, to England or to Scandinavia, we could not have moved a mile without meeting American students.

Tell It To Old Grandma

Letters to the editor must carry complete name and street address of the writer, though pen names may be used at the editor's discretion. Letters of less than 200 words are given preference. All letters may be cut.

Adjustment Of Attitude Up North

EDITOR, THE ADVERTISER—Since leaving Montgomery in 1937 I have continued to receive The Montgomery Advertiser and over the period of years I have clipped articles from your paper and turned them over to my good friend, Clay Tate, editor of The Bloomington Pantagraph. Gradually I have seen the attitude of this paper change from the usual type of intolerance toward Southern conditions to one which indicates that maybe after all the situation in the South is not too bad.

Recently an editorial appeared in this paper in opposition to the proposed FEPC bill which is now in the Illinois State Legislature, the point raised being that probably this is a matter which should not be dealt with by legal procedure. Later I saw an editorial in The Chicago Tribune which carried pretty much the same points of discussion.

I am enclosing herewith a tear sheet from The Bloomington Pantagraph and you will of course recognize that the article brought to your attention is practically a quotation from the news item from The Montgomery Advertiser.

I now have for transmittal to The Pantagraph editor some more clippings from The Advertiser reporting the Negro livestock show, the photographs concerning same and the report on the sale of the calf which brought $647.

I am convinced that actually the thing that is needful is for someone who is not inclined to say too much to constantly pump these news items into the life stream of the Northern newspapers merely as a matter of information. I presume that the newspapers in the North are pretty much like those in the South—they print largely what appears to be news and if it comes as somewhat of a shock to them that the South is really making progress in dealing with the Negro question, then maybe it will be of more or less general interest to the readers to have this information.

All I do is to clip the items and pen a little note to same saying in a friendly way that this is merely to keep one part of the country informed as to what the other part of the country is doing. Sometimes the items are printed and sometimes they are not. The greatest good that seems to come from it appears to be adjustment of attitude.

Incidentally, I told one of our Republican congressmen a short time ago that if he and his colleagues didn't watch out some of these days our Southern senators might go to sleep and our Northern brethren might get to pass the FEPC bill, then the whole country would find itself in a turmoil. His reply was that this would never happen. The funny part about that whole situation is when they are actually out on their own to determine their destiny in their own state they manage to get the bill defeated. Actually they are not as dumb as they talk.

N. ERIC BELL
Bloomington, Ill.

Negro Education Gains In South

The Bloomington, Ill., Pantagraph

Dedication of two new schools for Negroes in Montgomery, Ala., within a month indicates that the South is not standing still in its efforts to solve the Negro problem. True, the solution is moving along lines of segregation, but progress is being made. Educational opportunity is being offered to more Negro children.

A long range plan for Negro education in Montgomery was launched in 1936. Progress includess a 500 per cent increase in salaries for Negro teachers since 1937. Free textbooks are offered through the sixth grade and nine-month school terms have been initiated.

Prof. T. H. Randall, one of the leading Negro educators of Montgomery, said at the dedication of George Washington Carver School:

"The evidence of the cordial relationship between races which we have in this city speaks as an answer to those who write bitterly of the Negro's plight in the South."

Dr. C. M. Dannelly, superintendent of Montgomery schools, said that the Communist press neglects to mention the good work being done for Negroes. He said this neglect is practiced with "malice aforethought."

Enlightened Southerners of both races are tackling the race problem at all points where there can be common agreement. Education is one of them. Economic opportunity must follow before education can be made fully effective.

The Largest Southern City?

The Chattanooga Times

MAYOR COOPER GREEN, of Birmingham, Ala., on a visit to Atlanta recently said: "I honestly believe that Birmingham is going to pass Atlanta in population—probably in the 1950 census."

It is possible, also, that Memphis and Dallas will pass Atlanta.

All of these four bustling cities have a hot rivalry on as if they were racing to be the largest Southern city.

It seems the fashion nowadays to ignore New Orleans, which has by far the largest population (494,537 in 1940) of any Southern city. Also ignored, since it is the second largest city in population of the South with 384,514 in the 1940 census. And Louisville, Ky., was ahead of the four cities mentioned with 319,077 in 1940.

But the South is interested in the race between the four upstart cities.

We know how Chattanooga has grown. We know that smaller cities in the Tennessee Valley, like Cleveland in our own state, and Guntersville in Alabama have made great increases.

Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis and Dallas have all increased their population even within their old boundaries since 1940.

But voters turned down an annexation movement in Atlanta. Atlanta is still confined to 35 square miles. Birmingham will have a referendum Aug. 1 on taking in 34 more square miles of territory which would give the Alabama metropolis 85 square miles.

Memphis also has extended its city boundaries.

Those Texas cities, boundaries or no boundaries, are simply amazing. And Dallas may come up ahead of Atlanta.

We do not give figures in this spirited race for any year after 1940, because estimates of current date are based on city directories which do not confine themselves to city's square mileage.

But even in 1940, Memphis and Dallas were close on Atlanta's heels. Here are the figures on the official 1940 census:

Atlanta, 302,288; Memphis, 292,942; Dallas, 294,734. Birmingham only had 267,583 in that census, but if it annexes the new territory on Aug. 1 it will take in most of the metropolitan district of Birmingham, which in 1940 had 407,851.

We presume that New Orleans, Houston and Louisville have also increased their population since 1940 and may remain first, second and third in the Southern cities rating of population in the 1950 census.

What is perhaps of more interest in the rivalry of the four upstart cities, insofar as the 1950 census is concerned, is the data which that census will turn up as to the growth of Southern cities in general and the possible trend away from the country or the farms.

The South has been losing population during the last 10 years when over 3,000,000 Negroes are said to have moved out of the Southern region.

Atlanta will be ashamed if Birmingham, Memphis and Dallas pass it in population. The whole South will be ashamed if the loss of our farm population is shown to be greater than the gain in our city population.

WHITE HOUSE COMMITTEE CONFEREES-Mrs. Anna Arnold Hedgeman, Liaison Officer for the Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth, and Miss Katherine F. Lenroot, Secretary of the National Committee for the Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth, welcomed national organizational leaders. In the picture left to right: Mrs. J. S. Morgan, President, National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers; Dr. Dorothy Boulding Ferebee, National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; Mrs. Ruby Hurley, Youth Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Miss Katherine F. Lenroot, Secretary, National Committee, Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth; Mrs. Anna Arnold Hedgeman Liaison Officer, Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth; Mrs. Ella P. Stewart, President, National Association of Colored Women, Inc.; Mrs Orra W. Spivey, President National Association of College Women; and Mrs. Doris J. Moore of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses

Bakers' Dozen Only $30,000 Short of Goal For Teen-Age Negro Youth Center Here

A youth center for Negro teen-agers living in Washington's mid-city slums is the aim of the Bakers' Dozen.

And they are now only $30,000 short of goal. The site has been obtained — two buildings in the 1500 block of 4th st. nw.— but money is needed to renovate and equip them.

Mrs. Alfred

The Bakers Dozen, so named because there were 13 charter members when the group was organized in 1944, is made up of women leaders in Washington's Negro community.

Their objective, they say, is to slash juvenile delinquency through the medium of a youth center.

Woody Herman Show Set

The group is sponsoring the appearance of Woody Herman and the King Cole Trio at 8:30 p. m. Thursday at Uline Arena. Tickets will sell for $1.20 and up and the Bakers Dozen hopes to realize enough profits to open at least one floor of the proposed youth center.

The youth center will serve Negro teen-agers living in the area bounded by North Capitol st., K st., 9th st. and U st. nw.

The last census showed 9000 children under the age of 18 living in that area, 8000 of them Negro.

In this area are some of Washington's worst slums. Venereal disease, tuberculosis and juvenile delinquency flourish.

Latest figures available show that in one year 1034 children under 18 were involved in complaints on delinquent behavior in the area. The Bakers Dozen believes a youth center would eliminate much of this juvenile delinquency.

Live Six to a Room

Mrs. Ruth Spencer, 1800 Bennett rd. ne., president of the group, says many of the Negro teen-agers haunt illegal liquor and gambling "dives" because they have no place at home to entertain friends.

"Many of these children," she said, "come from families where six to eight persons live in a single room. They don't have living rooms and many have never even seen a sofa."

Private donations, plus a benefit Duke Ellington concert at the Water Gate in June, 1946, made it possible for the Bakers Dozen to buy buildings at 1509 and 1511 4th st. nw. This site, it was decided, was the most central point in the area. Unsafe in their present state, the buildings still remain boarded up.

It is estimated $30,000 will be enough to renovate the buildings and equip them as a youth center and acquire services of one full-time and two part-time recreation workers. Members of the Bakers Dozen will volunteer their services to supplement the staff.

The Bakers Dozen opened a youth canteen in February, 1945, in borrowed space at the Northwest Settlement House, 515 M st. nw. Within 18 months there were 500 children on the rolls.

This was unsatisfactory because the settlement house could spare the teen-agers only one night a week and it was necessary to limit the number of youngsters who could attend.

The proposed youth center will have a large room for dancing, a stage, thrift shop, snack bar, hobby rooms and a library.

Other officers of the Bakers Dozen are Mildred U. Alfred, vice president; Lucille D. Roberts, recording secretary; Beatrice Y. Black, treasurer; Flaxie M. Pinkett, chairman property committee. Members are Hazel B. Adams, Henrietta B. Franklin, June Grant, Sarah Irving, Mignon B. Johnson, Carol H. Parris and Dorothea B. Stewart. Associate members are Margot P. Dyson, Evelyn C. Ireland and Ada F. Jones.

Among the group's advisors are Mrs. Henry Alvah Strong, Mrs. Albert W. Atwood, and Representative Helen Gahagan Douglas (D.

46c 1949

HOME FOR NEGRO GIRLS PLANS NEW QUARTERS

New York Times
New York, New York
March 22, 1949

Plans for enlarging the Katy Ferguson House for unmarried young Negro mothers were announced yesterday at the annual meeting of the board of the home. Justice Jane M. Bolin told the meeting that the house was of great value to the Domestic Relations Courts of New York.

The 30-year-old institution, which is at 162 West 130th Street, cared for sixty girls last year.

Pointing to the youth of the first offenders who appeared in the Domestic Relations Courts, Justice Bolin said that "neglect" and "delinquency" were in most cases interchangeable terms.

She said that the Katy Ferguson House helped meet the needs of young women who have no criminal records or trends, always keeping in mind that persons in need were for the most part "pathetic little girls who need understanding, sympathy and guidance."

The home last year operated on a budget of $26,449, with a deficit of $242, Mrs. Edwin F. Chinlund, treasurer, said. A campaign to raise $50,000 to buy new quarters has netted $22,750. An anonymous gift of $5,000 has been made contingent upon raising another $22,250. Present equipment and the building itself were said to be totally inadequate.

'Bethlehem' Builds Better Citizens

Birmingham News
June 2-13-49

BY VIRGINIA VAN DER VEER

"Whosoever will may come."

These kindly words are faded by time and weather but their meaning is still warm.

IT IS THE LEGEND above the door of a two-story, red brick building, whose yard is washed in Winter sunshine and fringed by the modest frame houses of a Negro community.

Birmingham Ala

This is Bethlehem House, unique in Birmingham as a settlement house for Negroes after the famed Hull House pattern. It serves Negro citizens of the Kingston, East Birmingham and Avondale communities.

SYMBOL OF COMMUNITY SERVICE—This plain, unadorned building is Bethlehem House, on a hilltop at 801 North 46th Street. To the Negro community which surrounds it, the settlement house, patterned after Chicago's Hull House, is a symbol that there is church and civic interest in the welfare of the Negro race.

About 40 children, from the youngest right up to the important homes, playing alone in shadowy corners behind locked doors.

Bethlehem House began because children such as these were left alone in their home one morning. Their mother had an all-day job and no place to leave them.

Both children died that day in the fire which reduced their home to ashes.

* * *

THIS WAS ALMOST three decades ago. Out of the tragedy grew an idea for community service in the minds of members of the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church.

A Negro pastor, the Rev. J. B. Carter, now of Hopewell A. M. E. Church, asked their help and received it.

Bethlehem House, founded on Southside, moved to the center of the industrial, low-income area just east of Avondale in the depression depths of 1930.

Its first duty was to the children of working mothers, the ones under 6 who were locked alone all day behind the "safety" of closed doors in their homes.

Slowly the pupils began to come, brought to Bethlehem House doorstep by their mothers early each morning. They came in hair ribbons and pigtails, in clean overalls or their first long corduroys.

In small, green chairs, they sat around the schoolroom to learn A B Cs, the flag pledge, counting games and songs.

June 2-13-49

Outdoors for a play period, then back inside for a hot lunch and all the milk they can drink. Settlement House workers watched with pride as scrawny bodies filled out, thin arms and legs fattened and healthy appetites bloomed.

After lunch came rest period, then homeward-bound under the guiding hand of a mother or older brother or sister.

* * *

THE IMPACT of Bethlehem House upon its community is manifold.

When the first kindergarten pupils grew to be school age, they came back to the settlement house for afternoon story hours, scout troop meetings, sewing and craft classes.

When they grew into 'teen-age they came to skate on Friday nights on the concrete floor of a newly-built recreation building.

They formed a 'teen-age club, with Bethlehem House as meeting place, and called it a "Savings and Civic Club."

Bessemer districts of the Methodist Church.

2. The Community Chest.

3. Negro groups.

Newest step in its growth is the formation of an Interracial Board to direct Bethlehem House and promote interest in it.

Eight white members and eight Negro members are being named.

Mrs. B. M. Keener, who is vice president of the board of directors of Bethlehem House and active in Methodist Church work, has been chosen president of the board.

The Rev. W. L. Turner is vice president. Miss Margaret Hodkins, who is superintendent of Bethlehem House, will be board secretary, and the Rev. C. J. Baker, treasurer.

June 2-13-49

BETHLEHEM HOUSE is little-known except to those whose lives it touches.

But it is an influence for stability and good citizenship in its own community. Through the lives of its "graduates," its effect is spread far beyond the limits of a neighborhood.

It is an example of one way in which two races can work together for the special benefit of one race—and, indirectly, to the benefit of both.

Bethlehem House is now 19 years old. Some of its first kindergarten graduates are young adults and coming to the settlement house for their own club to specialize in music study.

Older men and women of the community pass under the welcoming legend over Bethlehem House door to attend Masonic Lodge, Savings Club or a social for elderly people.

* * *

BETHLEHEM HOUSE is supported from three sources:

1. The woman's division of Christian Service and the Board of City Missions of the Birmingham and

AKAs Sparked Project

Savannahans Dedicate $35,000 Home for Kids

Courier, Pat. 3-6-49 Pittsburgh, Pa.

SAVANNAH—A home for underprivileged and orphan children was made possible by a dream-idea of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority recently. Greenbrier Children's Center held its dedicatory program Sunday of last week, marking the official opening of a home for needy children.

Atty. B. H. Levy, prominent Savannah attorney and chairman of Greenbrier fund drive, delivered the main address. Dr. Ralph Mark Gilbert, pastor of First African Baptist Church, responded and the Rev. Jack Anderson, pastor of Wesley Monumental Church, gave the invocation.

Capt. Frank Spencer was master-of-ceremonies and introduced the speakers.

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COST $35,000

Greenbrier Children's Center is located at Hunter Field, a former soldiers' camp during the last war. The building was completely renovated at a cost estimated at $35,000 and furnished largely by colored and white citizens. It accommodates eleven girls and nine boys.

The center was officially opened July 25, but actual acceptance of children will be determined by the Child Placement Service which will investigate applicants.

The staff includes Mrs. Francis McNichols, house mother; Nathaniel Little, maintenance, and Mrs. Mamie Smith, dietitian. Mrs. Martha Wilson, faculty member of Georgia State College, is president of the board of directors.

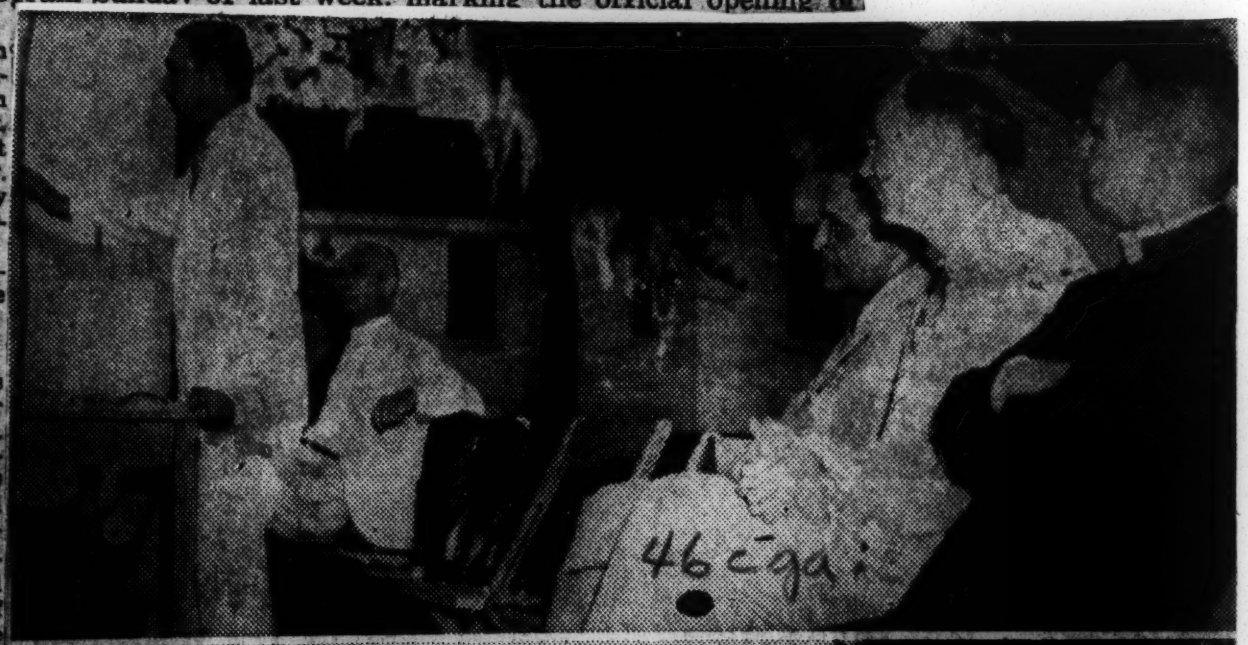
SOUGHT $50,000

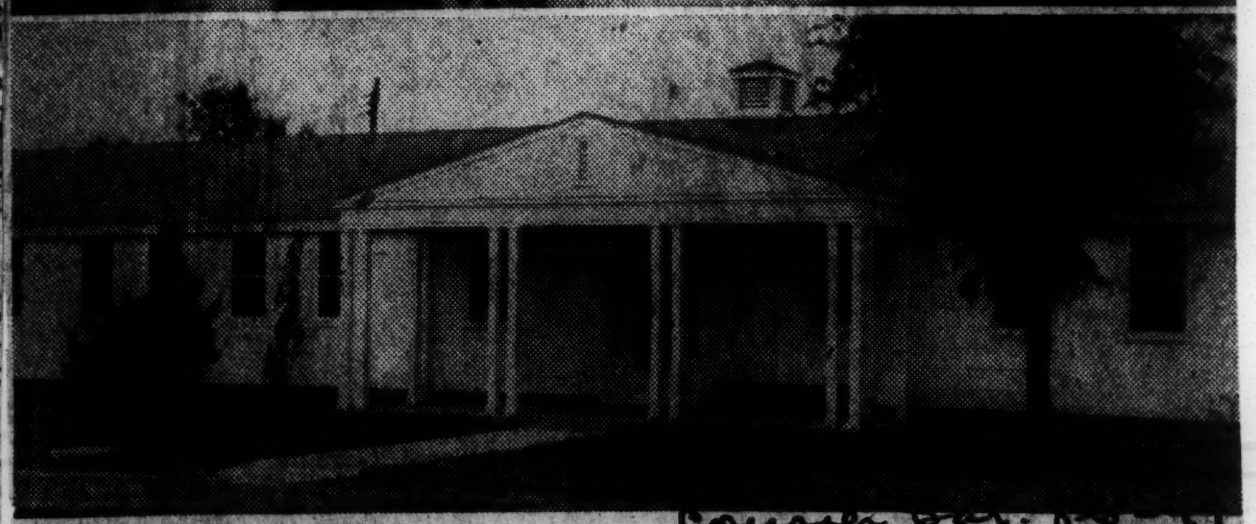
In May of 1943, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority accepted a challenge in the will of Mrs. Adline Graham, who stipulated in her will, that a cash sum and a designated part of her property be placed in a trust fund to be used for a home for underprivileged and orphan Negro children, and if after a given length of time there was no Negro orphan home project started the sum stipulated in her will would be given to a white orphan home.

The AKA's realizing the sum in the will was not enough to build and maintain a useful home chartered an organization known as Greenbrief and set out to make an appeal to citizens of Savannah for financial aid to build a home for needy children.

A $50,000 drive was launched and through the generosity of colored and white citizens AKA's dreams have at last come true.

The members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Gamma Sigma Omega Chapter, are: Francis C. Richardson, Irene P. Alexander, Juanita F. Jennings, Mattie B. Payne, Mamie H. Russell, Martha W. Wilson, Angeline Brown, Dorothy B. Jamerson, Lula L. Lockett, Jane P. Starr, Amy P. Bailey, Mary E. Williams and Vera K. Banks.





GREENBRIER DEDICATION—Atty. B. H. Levy of Savannah was dedication speaker July 24 at ceremonies held for the Greenbrier Center for Underprivileged Children. Others are [illegible] Spencer, the Rev. Ralph Mark Gilbert, and the Revs. Jack Anderson and F. W. Bagby. The building, a former Army facility, was renovated at a cost to Negro and white donors of approximately $35,000.

Courier Pat. 3-6-49